

Police woke Tidbury 'as armed men' stalked home

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

SIR Charles Tidbury, former chairman of Whitbread brewers, yesterday described to a Central Criminal Court jury how he was woken by a police guard and warned that two armed members of an IRA active service unit were outside his country home.

The guard appeared at his bedside and said: "Excuse me, sir. We have got intruders and they are armed, so we have sent for reinforcements. I want you to stay where you are. Don't let the dogs bark and don't switch on the light."

Sir Charles, chairman of the William and Mary Tercentenary Trust, and his wife were roused at about 2am on a Sunday morning in September 1990 after a policeman had spotted the men armed with rifles and wearing camouflage uniforms. One began to investigate cars parked in the carport at Sir

Charles's home at Crocker Hill Farm, near Portsmouth, Hampshire, while the other stood guard.

Eventually, Sir Charles said, lights went on outside and he looked out but no one was there. He and his wife were moved from the house to spend the rest of the night at a police station.

Sir Charles was giving evidence yesterday at the trial of William McKane, aged 24, from northwest London. He is accused of being part of an active service unit including Nessim Quinlivan and Pease McAuley, who escaped from Brixton prison last year. Mr McKane has denied conspiracy with Quinlivan and McAuley, and others, conspiracy with the two men to cause explosions, and possession of firearms with them.

PC Gary Leigh told the court that he was at an observation point by an open window when he heard what sounded like the back door handle being tried and heard footsteps on the gravel. One man appeared and was followed by a second. He raised the alarm on his radio.

Sergeant Marcus Lancaster said he watched the men through night vision equipment. One of the intruders was by the garage looking at the car and would sometimes kneel down as if he was looking under them. Both men were carrying rifles and wearing military fatigues and woolen hats.

Sergeant Lancaster gave the order for his men to cock their weapons. One man was to stand by the front door and challenge the intruders, but they had gone. He said cocking the guns was quite loud and difficult to do silently. When he turned back to the night vision the man in the garage was coming out and then went over a fence. The guard had disappeared.

As reinforcements arrived, PC Paul Kilgallon, driving towards the farm, saw a car come towards him and took its registration number. He broadcast it on his radio but described the car as a Renault Fuego when it was a Ford Sierra. The car, with three men inside, passed two police vehicles. After realising it was the car reported earlier, they eventually gave chase.

The car was seen again two days later by Martin Smith, an off-duty policeman, who drove to a service station to report the sighting. He said that the driver, identified as McAuley, followed him into the service area but that the car drove off before reinforcements arrived.

The trial continues on Monday.

IRA gun runner arrested

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent

A FORMER member of the IRA's headquarters staff who masterminded weapons shipments from Libya in the mid-Eighties was arrested at Dublin airport yesterday after being expelled from France.

Gabriel Cleary, aged 47, from Priortown, Co Dublin, was arrested as he left a plane from Paris and was held under the Irish Republic's anti-terrorist legislation.

Cleary, who was described in a French court last year as an IRA soldier, can be held for up to 48 hours without charge. Irish security sources indicated that he is likely to face new charges in the republic.

Cleary, whom police believe acted as the link between the IRA and Colonel Gaddafi, was a member of the crew of the Panamanian registered coaster Eksund, which was seized by French customs off the Brittany coast in October 1987 on its way from Libya to Ireland. On board were 150 tonnes of weapons and ammunition. A French court jailed Cleary for five years.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The mystery of Mark Thatcher's millions

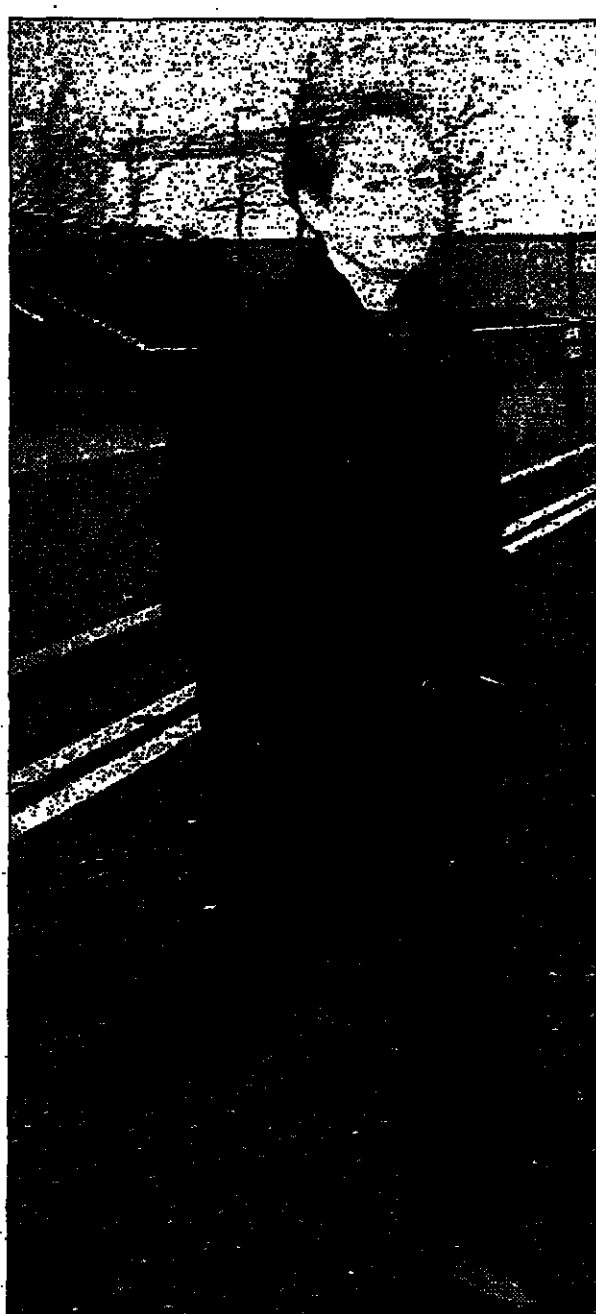
No one knows how Mark Thatcher made his millions. But all that can be said with certainty is that all of Thatcher's known deals have involved his mother, directly or indirectly. Of course, it may be that he is a truly brilliant entrepreneur, pulling off astute deals that no one knows anything about.

Russell Miller on the trail of the Thatcher fortune, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Penelope Clasper leaving the court yesterday

Drink-drive woman's jail sentence quashed

By Paul Wilkinson

A JUDGE who quashed a five-day jail sentence imposed at Christmas on a wealthy housewife for drink-driving was yesterday accused of losing an opportunity to warn "the privileged class" that it is not exempt from the law.

Judge Butler had allowed the appeal of Penelope Clasper, aged 42, against the sentence imposed the day after Boxing Day after her counsel said that she had been singled out as an example during the pre-Christmas drink-driving campaign.

John Knight, a founder of the Campaign Against Drinking and Driving, said outside the court that the judge had failed in his duty to protect the public. "He could have sent shockwaves throughout that small minority of the privileged class in society who continue to drink and drive and daily threaten the lives of all who use our roads," Mr Knight said.

"By not upholding the sentence he bears a heavy responsibility for future victims who will now be killed or injured by drunk drivers who will think they can escape justice."

Mrs Clasper, a mother of two and part-time charity worker who lives in a £300,000 flat in Kensington, west London, left without comment. The judge upheld the rest of her sentence imposed by Horseferry

Road magistrates, a £200 fine and a 15-month ban. Marks Moore, her barrister, told the judge at Southwark crown court that it was the view of "certain courts and areas that examples should be made at the Christmas period and people should be sent to prison with regard to drink-driving. It is as plain as a pikestaff that if a person is going to drink-drive the sentence should be exactly the same all the year."

The court was told that on December 11 Mrs Clasper had four glasses of wine at a bridge party before being stopped by police just before midnight for cutting in front of another car. She was almost twice the legal limit.

Mr Moore said that Mrs Clasper had been driving for 26 years and her only previous conviction was for speeding. He said that at the



Long, cited Christmas drink-drive campaign

weekly bridge party she had been drinking wine with cheese. "Regrettably, she felt she had not drunk sufficient wine where she would be over the limit," he said. "It is quite clear the level was twice what it should be."

After the conviction, Mrs Clasper spent three hours in the court cells before being freed on bail pending appeal. The magistrate who jailed her, Pamela Long, said at the time: "There has been a nationwide drink-drive campaign and it seems incredible a lady of obvious intelligence like this should be unaware of it."

In quashing her imprisonment yesterday, Judge Butler said that he took into account that there were no aggravating features, such as dangerous driving. "It's hard to see how an offence committed in June was less serious than the same offence committed in December," he said.

"Sentences passed for an offence on this kind often cause considerable public interest and comment, and feelings as to what should be done sharply differ. Some urge that even first time offenders should always receive an immediate custodial sentence. Others consider prison is rarely, if ever, appropriate."

He said that making examples of drink-drivers was dangerous if generalised and that each case should be treated in isolation.

Girl who killed stepfather is freed

A SCHOOLGIRL who killed her drunken stepfather to protect her mother walked free from court yesterday. The girl, aged 15, stabbed him in the heart as he attacked the mother and wrecked the family home.

A judge at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court said that he could see no point in jailing the child after she admitted manslaughter due to provocation and diminished responsibility. The court accepted her plea of not guilty to murder after being told that the family suffered greatly at the man's hands.

On the night that he died he had smashed furniture and ornaments and was beating up his wife when the girl came to her aid. Roger Thorn, QC, for the prosecution, said that she stabbed her stepfather nine times with a kitchen knife.

The mother told police: "Out of the corner of my eye I saw her jump up and the next thing I knew, my husband was falling to the floor." David Robinson, QC, for the girl, said that she was mentally ill at the time of the attack because of severe emotional stress caused by the stepfather's behaviour.

Mr Justice Turner imposed a three-year supervision order on condition that the girl received treatment, saying that he had "no doubt whatsoever that the wider public interest and the narrower interest of the girl herself" would be served by the order.

Scot loses claim of race abuse

A SCOTSMAN who claimed that his temper snapped after he was subjected to racial abuse at work lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday. An industrial tribunal in Leeds dismissed the case, ruling that the man was not from a different country.

Doug McGregor, aged 37, of Leeds, claimed that he suffered months of racial abuse and that his life was made a misery by a colleague who continually branded him a "lazy Scotch bastard". He lost his temper when the Englishman forced him off the road in his car and taunted him. Mr McGregor seized a hammer from under his seat and chased the man. The worker reported the incident to management at Proctor Paper and Board, which dismissed Mr McGregor for misconduct, saying that the decision had nothing to do with his nationality.

Raymond Worrall, tribunal chairman, said: "The applicant is not of a separate nationality and we do not have the jurisdiction to hear the case."

DAVID SECORSE



Balmoral audience: a scene from *Elizabeth R*, a BBC documentary to be shown on February 6

The Queen and tax is 'small beer'

By John Young

THE Queen is far from being the richest person in Britain, and the argument about her tax exemption is "small beer", an article in this week's issue of *The Economist* says. Her private income is somewhere between £1 million and £5 million a year and, if she paid income tax, the yield to the Treasury would be about £2 million at most.

Newspaper stories estimating her "wealth" at "around £7 billion" conjure up the picture of a fabulously rich monarch, with an annual income to match. That picture is misleading, it says. Most guesses ignore the line between public and private assets. Many of the Queen's apparent assets do not belong to her. Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, for example, are legal

ly inalienable: that is to say they belong to the monarchy, and not to the incumbent.

The same goes for the Crown Jewels, most of which the Queen has not worn since her coronation. Other goods, such as jewels and paintings presented by foreign heads of state, are treated as inalienable by custom and will be left to her successor.

Her true private wealth consists mainly of her private financial investments, her racing stables, and her two country houses at Balmoral and Sandringham. "The most controversial element is the Queen's investment portfolio," the article says. But since 1971, "she has spent the dividends and dug deep into the capital, mainly to help other members of her immediate family."

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FRIENDS PROVIDENT	2	2		
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	1	1	2	
SCOTTISH LIFE	1		3	
SCOTTISH AMicable	1		1	
EAGLE STAR	1			
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1			
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PROVIDENT MUTUAL	1			
CLERICAL MEDICAL	2	7		
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	2			
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	1	1		
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Judges rule police in Guildford Four case must face trial

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THREE police officers who helped to bring the case against the Guildford Four must face trial, accused of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The court quashed a magistrate's decision last year to dismiss the charges against the former Surrey policemen and ordered him to go ahead with committal proceedings against them.

The three judges, who upheld an appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service, said that Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street

court, London, had been "wholly wrong" to drop the charges.

Yesterday's reserved judgment will be studied carefully by lawyers acting for four former West Midlands police officers facing charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice over their investigation of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings.

Following a hearing where the four were remanded in November on unconditional bail, their lawyers said that they would be applying for the charges to be dropped "on the grounds of an abuse of

process by reason of delay, prejudicial publicity and other matters".

Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Ross, said yesterday that Mr Bartle had been wrong to conclude that the lapse of time between the commission of the alleged offences and a trial would result in the former Surrey police officers not having a fair hearing.

He said that the jurisdiction to halt criminal proceedings for delay had to be exercised with great care, particularly where it was not the fault of the prosecution but arose because matters giving rise to the proceedings had come to light only after a long period of time.

Mr Bartle ruled last year that proceedings against the three men were an abuse of the court process. He said that the delay since the case had been sufficiently extreme to raise an inference of prejudice; that public comment through the media was highly prejudicial and that the defendants had suffered disadvantage by the lapse of time.

Charges against Thomas Style, John Donaldson and Vernon Atwell arose from the case of the Guildford Four, jailed for life for the 1974 Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings but freed by the Court of Appeal in October 1989. The Surrey officers were charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice by manufacturing and putting forward notes said to be contemporaneously made in interviews with Patrick Armstrong, one of the four.

In the judgment, Lord Justice Neill said that while much of the publicity had been critical and even hostile towards the police, this could not affect a trial.

At the appeal court hearing, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, branded the men as liars. But Lord Justice Neill said: "A jury would be perfectly capable of deciding the case on the evidence without regard to what they might have seen or read three years or so before."

Classroom reform to continue

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

THE pace of school reform will not slacken, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, promised yesterday, although he admitted that teachers found the programme unsettling.

Mr Clarke's remarks, at the Society of Education Officers' conference in Harrogate, came less than a day after Labour had pledged stability for schools. He said that the experience of the past five years proved that it was possible to introduce fundamental change quickly.

"I am unrepentant about the pace of change of reforms," Mr Clarke said. "If we had let things meander on as they were, we would in effect have been condemning our young people to years, indeed decades, of sub-standard education."

The national curriculum, he added, would continue to generate change, and schools would have to adapt to new responsibilities for training teachers. "So-called experts" were demanding research and evaluation as an excuse for inertia.

Wildlife act 'risk to nature'

By JOHN YOUNG

PEST control could become impossible and wildlife seriously damaged if a Commons bill next month becomes law, the Game Conservancy Council says.

MPs have been promised a free vote on the wild mammals (protection) bill, sponsored by Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull North and a vice-president of the League against Cruel Sports. Although the bill will run out of time because of the election, it has all-party support and is thought to stand a sporting chance of winning the vote.

Its main purpose is to ban hunting with hounds, but it would also make "cruel treatment" of a wild animal an offence. That could outlaw shooting, because birds and animals might be left wounded and in pain, the council says in a brief sent to MPs.

Courts could also rule against live trapping because of the stress it inflicts. Fettering would almost certainly be outlawed as causing unnecessary suffering. Foxes cannot be gassed because no chemical compound has yet been approved.



Crossed lines: passers-by yesterday examining a paved maze in the shape of a zebra's head in the redesigned Church Square at Tring, Hertfordshire.

and Baron Rothschild, who trained three zebras and a horse to pull his carriage on his estate at Tring a hundred years ago. The maze, laid in clay paving blocks, has been set in front of the town's war memorial outside the parish church.

Baron Rothschild was an important collector of natural history exhibits and made Tring Park the home of many species that were endangered even in Victorian times.

His collection of birds, reptiles, mammals, marine life and insects became the foundation of Tring zoological museum, which celebrates its centenary this year and is now part of the British Museum.

Freedom bill for records rejected

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE government yesterday rejected an attempt in a Freedom of Information Act that would give people access to all records held about them by public authorities.

Tim Renton, the civil service minister, said that a private member's bill, which would open to view 92 miles of files in the public records office, was unnecessary and vague. However, he extolled the virtues of open government and pledged that ministers would not rest on their laurels on the issue. "We shall continue to work for greater openness and, as and when we can make further advances, we shall do so."

The bill was introduced by Archy Kirkwood, a Liberal Democrat MP, who claimed past support for the idea from several Tory ministers, including Kenneth Baker, Norman Lamont and Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Citing the citizen's charter, which has opened up information on waiting list times in the health service, Mr Renton said that the present Tory administration had done more to create transparency in government than any of its predecessors. However, the bill would impair candour and self criticism in government although it might provide "temporary relief for the inflamed political imaginations of those inclined to see evil behind all government confidentiality".

Robin Corbett, the Labour home affairs spokesman, said that Labour would introduce a Freedom of Information Act along the lines of Mr Kirkwood's bill, which ran out of time yesterday.

The government cleared the way for a wider range of road management schemes to slow traffic in an effort to reduce the number of pedestrian deaths.

Ministers supported a private member's bill in the Commons by Keith Mans, Tory MP for Wyre, giving legal backing to devices narrowing roads or exerting psychological pressure on drivers to reduce speeds.

The bill was given an unopposed second reading and has a strong chance of becoming law.

Beacons inflame Euro passion

By JOE JOSEPH

AS IF we won't all have enough to do next New Year's eve to prepare for a unified Europe, what with sterilising the unpasteurised Camembert, hiding the prawn flavour crisps from EC sniffer dogs and moving our carrots from veg rack to fruit bowl to comply with Mediterranean jam-making customs, we may also have to build great big bonfires up and down the land.

The plan is to unite Europe spiritually as we enter 1993 by lighting beacons at midnight in towns, villages and back gardens across every country in the Community, which makes the risks from eating real Camembert seem fairly slim.

This pyromaniac's new year ball is the brainchild of Bruno Peek, an English organiser of special events who has made a big name for himself in the beacon world. He has fanned strong interest in the project, which has been dubbed, inspiringly, Beacon Europe. The European parliament is behind it. Even Cyprus and Malta, which are not EC members, are keen to go up in flames.

Bonfire parties already enliven many parts of Europe through the year. Britain, of course, has Guy Fawkes night. Spain lights up on March 19, France celebrates Bastille Day on July 14, and Germany has summer solstice bonfires.

No doubt revellers will use Beacon Europe's bonfire flames to hold barbecue street parties, each according to the national customs. Spaniards will roast whole bulls, the French will turn garlicked legs of lamb over the flames and the British will sizzle their emulsified high-fat offal tubes, which is what we must call sausages post-1993.

The project is Mr Peek's third brush with beacons, after Operation Seafire in 1981 to promote Britain's maritime heritage and, in 1988, the 400th anniversary beacons for the Armada.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

Judge backs Equity ban on sales to South Africa

BY LIN JENKINS

THE actor Marius Goring has failed in his High Court action to overturn a boycott by Equity, the actors' union, on sales of television and radio programmes to South Africa.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, who said that the case had been "most difficult to decide", rejected Mr Goring's claim that the union had acted illegally and in breach of its regulations by imposing the ban. He ruled that the sales ban arose from a genuine desire to protect the interests of black members of the 46,000 strong union.

Mr Goring, aged 79, who starred on television in *The*

Expert and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, claimed during the six-day hearing that the boycott had deprived British performers of millions of pounds in fees. He said that the ban was directly adverse to members' economic interests and had been unlawfully imposed for the sectarian purpose of opposing apartheid.

The judge said: "I cannot forbear from concluding, unlikely as it may seem to the cynical, that the primary purpose of the sales ban policy was a genuine desire to protect the interests of the black membership." On the evidence, he did not feel justified in concluding that Equity was acting in a party political or sectarian manner.

Mr Goring faces a legal costs bill unofficially estimated at £180,000. He vowed to fight on. "I have lost. I just cannot understand why I have lost, but I am appealing."

The Equity president, Nigel Davenport, who appeared in the BBC drama series *Trainer*, said: "Equity is relieved to have the result it has got." The union had held a democratic ballot and its membership had voted in favour of the boycott. Equity was obliged to uphold that decision in the courts. Mr Davenport added that as South Africa was changing rapidly, the union could decide to hold another ballot later, in which case the policy might be reversed.

Since he joined the council of Equity, the actors' union, in 1949, Mr Goring has been committed to keeping it non-political. He first challenged the council in 1972, when he sought a High Court injunction to prevent £150 of union money being given to miners' strike funds without the approval of the membership. It was a matter which prompted his resignation.

Further court action in the late 1970s resulted in a ruling on Equity rule-changes and, in 1986, he succeeded in a High Court action to overturn the union's ban on British actors working in South Africa. Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson found the union had exceeded its powers and that the boycott had a sectarian purpose not promoting members' interests.

In 1986, the High Court ruled that Equity's ban on its members working in South Africa had a sectarian purpose that did not promote the professional interests of the members and had therefore been wrongly imposed.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies said yesterday that the two cases were different and Equity had a genuine desire to protect black members whose interests might be harmed if British companies started to make programmes acceptable in South Africa to benefit from sales to that country.



Statesmen's verdict: Denis Healey, Edward Heath and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead at Broadcasting House, London, after recording their first joint broadcast in which they evaluate five decades of politics. The three, who met as students at Balliol, Oxford, can be heard on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* on Sunday

Framed brothers awarded £26,000

TWO brothers framed by the police and strip-searched were awarded a total of £26,800 in damages by the High Court yesterday for assault and false imprisonment. The Metropolitan police also face legal costs of about £30,000.

John and Michael Watkins were arrested in February 1987 after police stopped their car in Stamford Hill, north London. Police claimed that Michael Watkins dropped two packets of cannabis as he got out of the car.

The brothers were held at Stoke Newington police station and strip-searched. Michael Watkins had his arm twisted behind his back and his brother had his genitals grabbed. Michael Watkins, aged 27, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, was charged with possession of cannabis, but acquitted in March 1988. John Watkins,

aged 26, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, was not charged.

The High Court awarded Michael Watkins £10,000 for malicious prosecution, £10,000 exemplary damages and £2,000 for the assault, strip-search and false imprisonment. John Watkins was awarded £2,000 for the assault, £800 for false imprisonment and £2,000 exemplary damages.

After the case, Michael Watkins said: "It was blatant, outrageous behaviour by the police. It is a great relief that it is over and that two different juries have now proved that I was innocent."

Police Constable Simon Cooke, who arrested the brothers and was involved in the strip-search, has since resigned. Detective Inspector Ian Hosking, who was found guilty of assault, has been promoted to chief inspector.

Heseltine fights Whitehall in very British war of wills

Jamie Dettmer reports on a political tussle surrounding the appointment of a leading civil servant

CIVIL servants have been watching the Cabinet Office for the past few days to see if they can be the first to detect the metaphorical puff of smoke that will signify the appointment of a successor to Sir Terence Heiser as permanent secretary of the environment department. So far, all they have noticed is a strong whiff of cordite in the Whitehall air.

Not since 1965, when Richard Crossman, then housing minister, scandalised the higher reaches of the civil service by opposing vigorously the appointment of a Treasury man as his permanent secretary, has Whitehall seen such a tussle between a minister and a cabinet secretary over the selection of a mandarin.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is understood to be digging his heels in against the names being put forward by Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary. Mr Heseltine wants the search for a successor to Sir Terence to be done on a much wider basis than Buggins's turn, and he wants a permanent secretary with whom he gets on well, according to Whitehall sources.

First on the Butler list is Richard Wilson, a deputy secretary at the Treasury. Mr Wilson has pedigree: he is married to the daughter of the late Sir Frank Lee, a highly regarded mandarin who went on to become a master of Corpus Christi, Cambridge.

Sir Robin is also in favour of Peter Owen, a deputy secretary at the Cabinet Office who has responsibility for the cabinet's economic sub-com-

mittees, and Derek Osborn, a deputy secretary for environmental protection at the environment department.

Mr Owen, who is on secondment from the environment department, is said to cultivate a "man of the people" image. His mother still lives in a council house in Liverpool and, unlike the other two on the Butler list, he was not educated at Oxbridge, but at Liverpool University, where he studied French. Mr Osborn, a keen chess player, went to Balliol, Oxford, and is described by colleagues as being less forceful than Mr Owen. He is, however, a legendary hard worker who, to the amusement of his colleagues, always takes home two briefcases full of papers.

The clash between Heseltine and Butler is really over style," a Whitehall source said. Mr Heseltine is believed to prefer Richard Mountray, a deputy under-secretary at the defence ministry, who was his private secretary when he was defence minister. Sir Peter Levene, the retired chief of defence procurement at defence, and David Edmonds, once Mr Heseltine's private secretary at environment and now with the National Westminster Bank, have also been mentioned. Mr Edmonds has probably spoiled any chance he might have had by criticising government housing policy and the Treasury during an interview last week on the BBC's *Panorama*. His appearance on the programme without a tie was also not geared to go down well.

As elections go, few come much smaller or more sophisticated than the group of voters who select permanent secretaries. Only the prime minister, the cabinet secretary, the minister whose department the appointment concerns and the outgoing permanent secretary cast a vote.

There is not much room for canvassing, nor would that be in civil service tradition. But over a sherry or two with Sir Robin, other senior mandarins have the opportunity to try to influence the decision.

Sir Robin may have a fall-back position. Some civil servants suspect that he could well try to have Sir Terence's retirement date put back. He could then delay a decision on the appointment until after an election, by which time Labour may be in, or Mr Heseltine might have moved department.



Sir Robin: clash of style with Mr Heseltine

Thai court jails drug case Briton

A Briton was jailed for 25 years by a court in Thailand yesterday for possessing 7lbs of heroin.

Stephen Harris, aged 33, of Nottingham, was told by the judge that he could have been jailed for 50 years but had been shown leniency because he pleaded guilty.

Harris was arrested on December 11, 1989, on charges of possessing the drug at his apartment in Bangkok. He said that he would not be appealing against the sentence.

Libel award

Christopher Tame, a director of the pro-smoking group *Forest*, accepted substantial High Court libel damages and an apology from LBC radio over a suggestion that he was in the pay of the tobacco industry.

Skipper fined

A coaster skipper was fined £2,500 by Plymouth crown court for sinking a 33ft fishing boat off the Cornish coast in May 1990. Bernard Cronin, aged 52, of Penicull, Looe, admitted failing to keep a proper lookout.

Mean streets

Haralabos Georgiou, who hired his car into a side street and under a lamp after it was repeatedly bumped outside his chip shop in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, needs £300 for a respray after the light bulb fell on the vehicle.

Police sued

Andrew Wilford, aged 41, a businessman of Colwyn Bay, Cwyd, who claims that police have stopped him in his car 22 times in two years, is suing the chief constable for false imprisonment.

Driver injured

Ann Marsh, aged 25, a physiotherapist of Kedgeley, West Yorkshire, was seriously injured after spending the night hanging upside down in freezing temperatures in her crashed car.

Discs case

Vinson Pike, aged 21, a computer dealer of Swindon, was bailed by the town's magistrates after being accused of possessing obscene floppy discs.

Speedy penalty

Lawrie McMenemy, England's assistant football manager, was fined £250 by Basingstoke magistrates, Hampshire, for speeding.

There's only the two of you. But you still need a car which can take you and your luggage.

You're young. You're foolish. But you're not stupid. You want a car with space as well as pace. The new 141BHP Sunny GTI.

It combines dynamic styling with a spacious, ergonomically designed interior.

With outstanding performance from a fuel-injected 2.0 litre 16 valve twin-cam engine with catalytic converter.

And, as you would expect from a car of this class, sports seats, power steering, alloy wheels and ABS are all fitted as standard. A new Sunny. From £8,855 to £15,325, on the road. It could be the most sensible decision you ever make. Call 0800 777 200 for a brochure and to find your nearest authorised dealer.

At the campaign's warehouse in King's Cross yesterday, scores of volunteers were busily sorting donations into subject headings, filling trolleys with management books, Russian classics in translation, novels, works of philosophy, history books, and antiquarian gems, the most precious of which will be auctioned. Rachael Barraclough, Book Aid's project coordinator, said the scale of the

Book Aid spreads the word

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

BOOK Aid, the charity that aims to send a million books to Russia and the republics, has extended its national appeal for seven days, after a week in which at least 200,000 books were handed in at bookshops.

The campaign's warehouse in King's Cross yesterday, scores of volunteers were busily sorting donations into subject headings, filling trolleys with management books, Russian classics in translation, novels, works of philosophy, history books, and antiquarian gems, the most precious of which will be auctioned. Rachael Barraclough, Book Aid's project coordinator, said the scale of the

public response had exceeded all expectations.

The National Book Aid appeal runs until Sunday, February 2. Books may be handed in at: Hefers, 20 Trinity St, Cambridge; Blackwell, 50 Broad St, Oxford; H.J. Lear, Royal Arcade, Cardiff; Hammick's, Farnham (both branches); Ottolenghi's, Salisbury; and the following branches of Waterstone's: London: Charing Cross Rd, Croydon; Covent Garden, Hampton, High St, Kensington; Kingston upon Thames; Notting Hill Gate, Richmond; Wimbledon; Aberdeen; Bath (415 Milcom St); Birmingham; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bristol (The Galleries, Broadmead); Canterbury; Cheltenham; Colchester (University of Essex); Edinburgh (Princes St and George St); Eastbourne; Exeter; Glasgow (Princes St); Guildford (North St); Lancaster; Leeds

(93/97 Albion St); Liverpool (52 Bold St); Maidstone; Manchester (Deansgate and St Ann's Sq); Newcastle; Norwich (St Stephen's St); Nottingham; Perth; Preston; Sheffield; Sturtevant; Stratford upon Avon; Swindon; Worcester; York. Larger book donations: Book Aid warehouse (071 713 3258). Please do not send books to: The Times. Cheques payable to Book Aid may be sent to Waterstone's Ltd, 37 Inworth Place, London SW3 3QH. Donors of money and volunteers will be entered into a draw. First prize, return flight to St Petersburg or Moscow, donated by Barry Martin Travel; second prize, case of wine donated by Oddbins; five runners-up £20 book vouchers each, donated by Waterstone's. Winners will be contacted by February 14.

Letters, page 13

Scots aim to drink whisky loch dry

BY KERRY GILL

SCOTLAND is producing too much of the "golden cratur" and must cut whisky production by up to 10 per cent, according to a leading analyst.

The news could not have come at a more opportune time, however, because tonight is Burns Night when Scots in their droves around the world celebrate the birth of the country's bard, Robert Burns, himself no mean imbibor of the hard stuff. It will be up to his followers to do their best to eliminate the stock surplus.

However manfully they raise their glasses to the task, though, Alan Gray, author of *Charterhouse* Tynes's annual review of the performance of the Scotch whisky industry, has said that

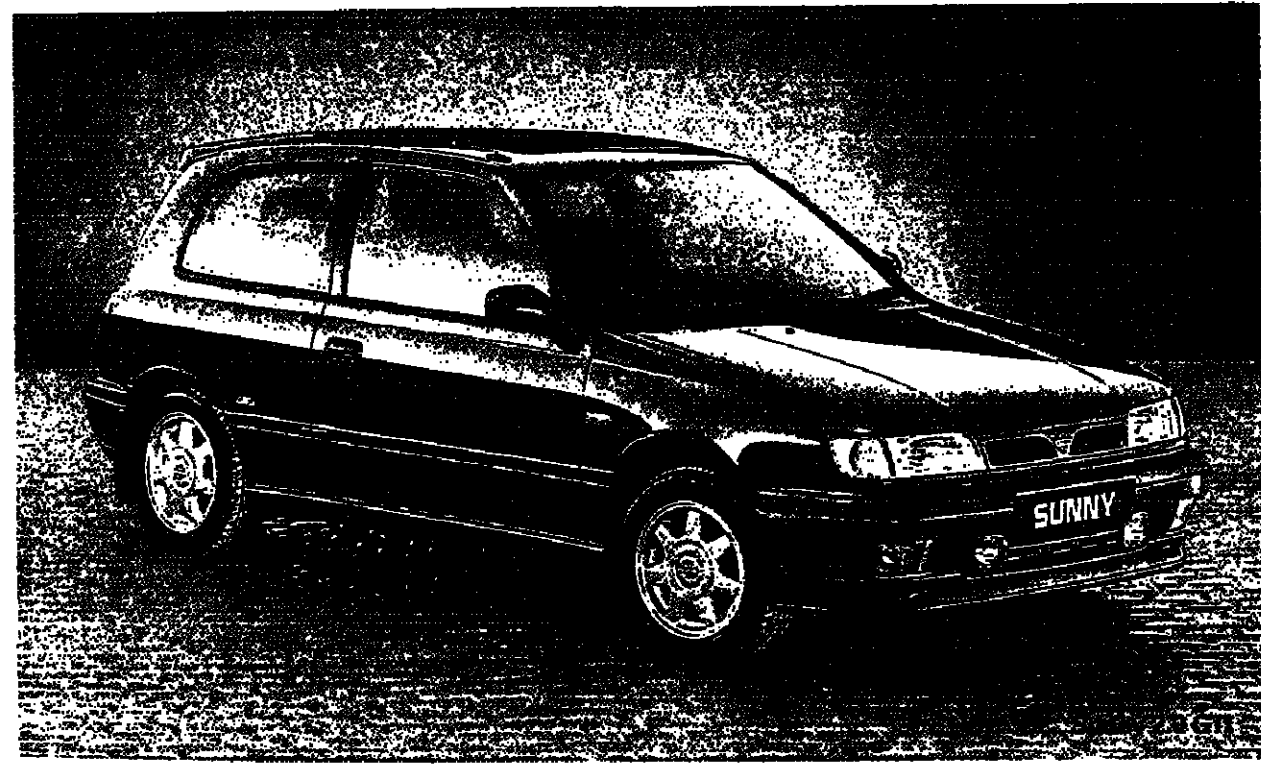
distilleries must "bite the bullet" this year and reduce production significantly to avoid the possibility of closures and redundancies.

In 1989, for the first time in nine years, production exceeded consumption and that was repeated on a greater scale in 1990, Mr Gray said in his report. "Unfortunately, despite the cutbacks in 1991 there will again be over production... and more substantial cuts are needed in 1992."

He emphasised, however, that in spite of the recession the industry was healthy because of improved marketing, more innovative advertising and the launch of high value products, particularly in the Far East. Highly priced whiskies in Japan, for instance, have become almost collectors' items.

The industry has to avoid a return to the bad old days of ten years ago when a "huge" whisky loch depressed prices and distilleries were threatened by low prices, discrimination against Scotch, a growing anti-drink lobby, a poor image of whisky among women and competition from drinks such as vodka, tequila and especially white wine.

Mr Gray said that the trend towards healthy eating and physical fitness in America, now rapidly gaining popularity in Britain, had caused people to move away from "hard liquor" to drinks with a lower or negligible alcohol content. Tonight, however, from the Highland glens to the Lowland bottles, such whimsical characteristics will be forgotten.



Model shown is Sunny 2.0 GTI 16-Door. Price £15,325. Price includes car tax, full tank of petrol, delivery to dealer, number plates and VAX.

Nuclear conmen make a bomb out of mercury trade



Barnaby: red mercury is code for uranium

ENTERPRISING businessmen from Eastern Europe are cashing in on the collapse of the Soviet Union to try to sell spurious "nuclear materials" to unsuspecting Third World regimes.

Not only the customers have been taken in; the Western press has begun to publish stories about red mercury, a material said to be used for the production of thermodynamic weapons and for guidance systems in ballistic missiles. Nuclear experts say that red mercury is not a material of any strategic importance, and certainly not worth the \$250,000 a kilogram being asked for it.

Hungarian traders have flooded potential customers from Iraq to Pakistan with offers to sell red mercury, claiming that it is vital for the detonation of a hydrogen

bomb. When inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency visited Baghdad they found cupboards full of offers to sell the material. "The Iraqis have been besieged with offers," David Kyd, of the agency, said. "We also have a drawer full of them here." In London, the defence ministry confirmed that red mercury was "not a material of nuclear significance".

The hoax has all the trappings of a Hollywood thriller, including the appearance of forged documents written in Cyrillic script to substantiate claims that the substance was smuggled out of Russia. Although there have been police raids in Prague and Sofia recently, the Hungarian connection remains the strongest. One Hungarian was arrested in Athens last

Hungarian hoaxers are cashing in on Third World demand for nuclear materials by selling dyed mercury at \$250,000 a kilogram. But you could buy it for a fraction of the price, Ernest Beck and Nigel Hawkes write

November and three in Milan last week, all suspected of trying to sell the substance.

According to Colonel Laszlo Tonhauser, head of the organised crime division of the Hungarian national police, "several hundred" businessmen may now be involved in the trade. "It is like a fever," he says. "Every Hungarian company wants to sell it along with their other products, like salami, although nobody has ever seen the stuff or really knows what it is." The most convincing cover story about red mercury is that it is an essential ingredient in the produc-

tion of lithium-6, an isotope used in hydrogen bombs. When the Hungarian trader was arrested in Athens last year, news agencies quoted an anonymous Greek nuclear expert as saying that red mercury was a chloride of mercury, used to form an amalgam with lithium in an intermediate stage in the production of lithium-6.

Later, *The Guardian* reported that a British businessman, Alan Kidger, whose mutilated body had been found in the boot of a stolen car in South Africa, might have been killed because he was involved with an arms ring smug-

gling red mercury. *The Sunday Times* quoted a Russian science editor as saying that red mercury, which could be used to improve the guidance system on ballistic missiles, was being smuggled out of Russia and sold for \$400,000 a kilogram.

Anybody who falls for the con finishes up with a flask of normal mercury dyed a colour described in the purchase orders as "cherry red". Frank Barnaby, former director of the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, has a personal theory that red mercury is actually a code name for enriched uranium. "The price is about right for 10 per cent enriched uranium," he says. "Why anybody should pay it for a mercury compound they could get from any chemist for a fraction as much is a mystery."

Whether any would-be nuclear powers have fallen for the scam is not clear. But the fact that it has been going on for years suggests that the traders have scored some successes. Recent political changes provide an air of authenticity to the sales pitch, Mr Kyd says, especially "if someone speaks in a Slavic accent in a seedy bar".

Although Western nuclear experts are now beginning to tire of the red mercury subject, the export of Soviet nuclear know-how remains a serious problem. Yesterday the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the United States was prepared to provide jobs for 2,000 Russian nuclear scientists to prevent them from taking their knowledge elsewhere. Just so long as they don't turn up with a flask of red mercury...

Mission to save the creepy crawlies

ALMOST 550 species of insect native to Britain are in danger of extinction, according to the *Social Trends* survey. The fate of the dormouse and the red squirrel, the two rarest mammals in Britain, has always generated popular concern. Not so the 142 different kinds of beetle at risk.

The gleaming rainbow leaf beetle is the most endangered species followed by the blue ground beetle and the *Agonum sabbatini*, found only in parts of Glasgow.

Three types of cricket are protected by law but are unlikely to survive. The scaly cricket with its Latin name, *Mogoplistes squamiger*, has not been seen for some time, but is not yet officially extinct. There are 41 British kinds

Beetles are among our less well known endangered species, Alison Roberts writes

of dragonfly and damselfly — the thinner, less robust cousin of the Odonata (large-jawed) order. Four species are on the point of extinction and five others are becoming increasingly rare. The orange spotted beetle, the Norfolk hawk, Norfolk damselfly and dainty damselfly will cease to exist if their habitat continues to be destroyed.

Dr Martin Drake, entomologist with English Nature, said: "To help insects is going to require large changes in land management, which is politically un-

acceptable. We have got to be partially resigned to losing some of these insects."

The butterfly, the most loved of insects, has been losing members of its family steadily since 1950. The forked wings and hazy flight of the British swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*, is becoming a rare sight. The heath fritillary and the iridescent large blue are among the 27 highly endangered species of moth and butterfly in Britain.

More than one-eighth of the species of spider indigenous to Britain are under threat. Arachnids rather than insects, the numbers of both terrestrial and freshwater spiders are decreasing significantly. The ladybird spider and the fen raft spider in particular should not be crushed underfoot.

English Nature began its species recovery programme last year. Conservationists investigate the biological requirements of various threatened species and then build up the profile of an ideal habitat.

Dr Drake said: "We have had some success, particularly with the fen raft spider. We now know the scientific needs of the species and it is a matter of getting it right in practice."

Leading article, page 13

NATIVE SPECIES AT RISK 1990

	Number endangered	Number vulnerable	Number rare	Number of native species
Mammals	2	12	5	76
Birds	61	2	12	518
Reptiles	2	1	1	11
Amphibians	1	1	1	6
Freshwater fish	3	4	2	84
Marine fish				310
Dragonflies/damselflies	4	2	3	41
Grasshoppers/crickets	3	2	1	30
Beetles	142	84	286	3,900
Butterflies/moths	27	22	55	2,400
Spiders	22	31	26	622

Source: Nature Conservancy Council

Vacuum cleans up prairie

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN CORTEZ, COLORADO

AN AMERICAN businessman has invented a giant vacuum device which clears prairie dogs from their burrows without killing them. The animals are deposited alive, if confused, in a large tank in his lorry.

"It causes them no harm," Gay Balfour, of southwestern Colorado, says. "It takes the little critter up and puts him in a tank, and there he can either be relocated or dispatched, whatever is necessary to do."

The animals go up a tube 4in in diameter and about 50ft long, then slide along a padded deflector plate into the tank. By the time workers stop the suction device to check the tank, they are already beginning to play in the dirt that is sucked up with them.

The device, called Dog-Gone, offers an alternative to the mass killings of prairie dogs that have long angered animal rights activists. Since its beginnings last summer, it has spread throughout southwestern America.

Mr Balfour said that the prairie dogs captured by his vacuum might still have to be killed if there was nowhere to relocate them, but he is now trying to avoid that by developing a market to send them to Japan as pets.



Holed out: a Dog-Gone operator puts a hose down a prairie dog hole. The animals are sucked up the hose and deposited alive in the lorry behind. They can then be moved to land not wanted for building or farming

Slimline shoppers leave luxuries on the shelf

CONSUMERS are buying more health-conscious products than ever before. Most, however, are prompted to do so more by the present economic climate than by any desire to live a healthy lifestyle. Most say that as soon as the economy picks up they will be splashing out again on fattening foods and luxuries.

Fresh, healthy goods are filling shopping baskets while red meat sales decrease, according to Kingsland Lloyd Petersen, a firm of marketing consultants which surveyed 2,000 consumers in Birmingham and the South-East. An upturn in the economy will, however, herald increased sales of wine, cakes and chocolates, according to the firm.

Twenty-eight per cent of those surveyed by the company said that health was the prime influence behind their food purchases while 24 per cent said they were driven by the desire to slim. Some 61

Consumers are losing the pounds while watching the pennies. Peter Victor reports

per cent said that money was short and they were doing without biscuits: 47 per cent were cutting out cakes.

All 47 per cent, however, admitted that when things got better they would put cakes back on their shopping list. Some 49 per cent expressed a desire to resume buying meat and 58 per cent said that they would start to buy wine again.

Supermarket shopping is on the increase, with 48 per cent of those surveyed saying that they use supermarkets more and only 5 per cent moving to the use of other stores. Corner shops are used less frequently with 17 per cent going to other outlets. Extortionate pricing was cited most commonly as a reason. Prices notwithstanding,

the survey showed that few housewives know the exact prices of bread, milk, eggs and petrol.

If they did not know the prices of the basics, at the luxury goods end they did not care. Consumers said that they would rather pay extra or even go without luxuries than opt for supermarkets' own brand goods. The definition of luxuries was prosaic, however, with chocolate biscuits, cakes and wine included.

When asked what was the first thing they would do when the economy picked up, 37 per cent said they would go on holiday; 34 per cent said that this had been their big sacrifice of 1991. Of those who had put off holidays, 79 per cent said they would rebook as soon as possible.

The survey held little promise for the housing market, however, with only 6 per cent expressing an intention to move house after an economic upturn.

When a chicken is not a chicken

Washington: Researchers have found that if you take genetically female chicken eggs and inject a chemical you get chickens that look and act like male chickens. They even develop testes capable of producing sperm.

The results of two scientists, Alex Elbrecht and Roy Smith, appeared yesterday in the weekly journal *Science*. It may be good news for the broiler industry — it is more economical for broiler producers to feed male chickens; they grow more quickly and eat less feed per pound of body weight than females. (Reuters)

Picker law

Rome: Italy's agriculture ministry is preparing to get tough with the thousands of wildcat mushroom pickers. A law being drafted imposes fines of up to 100,000 lire (£47) on anyone taking over 4lb a day. (Reuters)

Past pleasure

Peking: The sport of emperors has returned to communist China with the opening of the Miyun hunting ground, a 9,880-acre preserve about 80 miles outside the capital near the Wuling mountains. Foreign and Chinese hunters can hunt pheasants, goats, deer and other animals. (AP)

Royal kiss

Norwich: Prince Charles turned on the charm by giving a woman a kiss when she pleaded for a peek on the cheek. Jean Overton, who would not give her age, blushed with pride as the prince obliged on a visit to a shoe factory in Norwich.

US invasion

Moscow: Bugs Bunny and Superman and a host of other American superstars are coming to Russian television, courtesy of Warner Brothers, a company spokeswoman said. From today, some of America's most popular films will be featured on Channel 1, run by Russia but seen around the whole Commonwealth of Independent States. (Reuters)

Then little flame comes along

Becoming a parent may be wonderful, but it soon teaches you that three's a crowd. Especially when your back seat's full of clothes and cuddly toys. Maybe it's time to expand. To a new Sunny 4-Door LX. Its four doors make lifting your small passenger in and out much easier. It has power, with a 1.6 litre 16 valve twin-cam engine complete with catalytic converter. With electric windows, electric tilt/slide sunroof

and central locking as standard. Because as you know, little things can make a big difference. And, until March 31st all Sunnys (except the GTi) come with a year's free comprehensive insurance.*

The new Sunny range. On the road prices from £8,855 to £15,325.

Call 0800 777 200 for a brochure and to find your nearest authorised dealer.

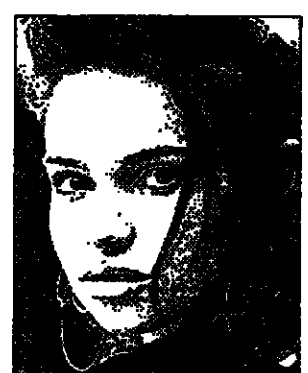
NISSAN



*Model shown is Sunny 1.6 LX 4-door saloon. Price £10,885. Price includes car tax, full tank of petrol, delivery to dealer, number plates and VAT. Insurance offer is subject to status and underwriting acceptance and applies to all Sunnys (except GTi) bought and registered up to March 31st. Drivers must be over 21 years of age (25 in N. Ireland).

Malcolm X's Soweto days

American film director Spike Lee arrived in South Africa yesterday to shoot scenes for a film about the black radical leader Malcolm X which is aimed at bringing blacks in Africa and America closer together. Lee will spend two days in Soweto filming scenes for *Any Means Necessary*, a movie on the American activist who was assassinated in 1965. Lee, visiting South Africa for the first time, told a news conference it did not matter that Malcolm X had never come to the country. "Malcolm X a long time ago saw the connection between coloured (black) people all over the world."



Marais district. The two bracelets, four necklaces, five pairs of earrings and two signet rings she took were worth 25,000 francs (£2,500). Her lawyer, Jean-Yves Lienart, said she had been lonely and depressed at the time because her husband had attempted suicide and then divorced her. The case has reinforced her screen image as an unhinged *femme fatale*. In Jean-Jacques Beineix's hit *Berry Blue* she played a glamorous vandal who plucks an eye.

French mountaineer Guy Gérard, who refused to let blindness stop him from reaching the Americas' highest peak,

has announced plans to scale the Himalayas soon. Gérard reached the summit of Aconcagua in the Andes at 22,848ft, alongside a team of compatriots as his guides.

Charles Moulin, a veteran of more than 100 films and a former swimming champion known as the "French Tarzan", died at his home in Montélimar yesterday aged 82. In a career that spanned five decades, he starred in many classic French films, working with such directors as Marcel Pagnol, Sacha Guitay and Jean Becker.

The Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown has told *Living* magazine of his fear that his two children — Kate and Simon, in their early twenties — might one day commit suicide because of his success. He considers Westminster the worst place for a family man, designed to "smash up marriages". He said: "My great fear has always revolved around the fact that the children of politicians have a terrible record of mental breakdowns and suicides. I'm quite paranoid about it, but I'm very lucky because I've got two very sane kids."

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£2,000 - £4,999	5.40%	4.05%
£250 - £1,999	3.90%	2.93%
£1 - £249	1.90%	1.43%

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Interest will normally be paid at the net rate, after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, currently 25.00%. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds an individual's liability to tax. Interest may be paid at the gross rate, without deduction of tax to individuals who are eligible and register that they do not expect to be liable to income tax and in certain other cases. All rates quoted are variable and correct at time of going to press. Interest paid annually. Minimum opening deposit £100. Where payments repeatedly cannot be met due to insufficient funds in an account, administration charges may be made. Certain charges will apply for special services. Overdrafts, Payment Cards and cheque guarantee cards are only available to those over 18 and are subject to status. *FRS data. Written quotations available from Nationwide House, 136 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.

Presidential candidacy jeopardised

Paper claims to hold tape of Clinton affair

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton, the Democrat presidential front-runner, said yesterday that he was being victimised for having had the honesty to publicly admit to past marital problems. Mr Clinton's protest came after an American tabloid newspaper claimed to have obtained tape recordings of his attempts to cover up an extra-marital affair.

The Arkansas governor has strongly denied allegations in the *Star* newspaper that he had a steamy 12-year affair with a former nightclub singer called Jennifer Flowers, who was recently given a job on the state payroll.

The *Star* claimed to have obtained from Ms Flowers tapes of about 15 confidential telephone conversations between her and Mr Clinton dating from December 1990. The paper played one nine-second excerpt to reporters to corroborate its claim.

In an interview with *The Washington Post* yesterday, he admitted telephoning Ms Flowers, but said he was only returning calls from her and had done so with his wife's full knowledge. All he had told her was to tell the truth.

If the allegations proved to be true, the affair by itself might not be enough to cause Mr Clinton's withdrawal.



Clinton: victimised for being honest

From the start of his campaign he has acknowledged unspecified past dalliances. What would really imperil his candidacy would be the perception that he had lied to the American people.

Until now the American mainstream press had largely ignored persistent allegations about Mr Clinton's affairs, but almost all the big newspapers are carrying this latest story and it appears to be reaching critical mass.

According to the *Star*, they have a tape of Mr Clinton telling Ms Flowers to deny their affair if approached by the media. "If they ever hit you with it, just say no and go

on," he allegedly told her last September. "There's nothing they can do. I expect them to look into it and come interview you. But if everybody is on the record denying it — no problem." He continues: "They don't have pictures. If no one says anything, then they don't have anything."

At another point Mr Clinton allegedly says: "There's no negative to this except I might lose the nomination to Bob Kerrey (the Nebraska senator) ... because he's single nobody cares who he's screwing." Everything would be fine "as long as everyone hangs tough".

The *Star* admitted that it had paid Ms Flowers for the tapes and her story. She had decided to go public because: "I'm so tired of all the lying and hiding. For 12 years I was his girlfriend and now he tells me to deny it ... the truth is I loved him and, yes, we did have an affair."



Singer and the song: Jennifer Flowers, who claims she had an affair with Governor Bill Clinton

Peking to join talks on Middle East peace

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

DELEGATIONS from Peking to Lisbon were making final preparations yesterday for next week's multilateral Middle East peace talks in Moscow, which will attract an unprecedented range of international powers but few of the region's key players.

The latest country to confirm its attendance yesterday was China, which, after years of support for the Palestinian cause and Arab countries, formally opened ties with Israel during a ceremony with David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister. Between toasts and congratulations at the Diaoyu guest house in Peking, Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister, said his country hoped to "play an important role in pushing forward the peace process".

However, as he, the Russian hosts and the American co-sponsors will have noticed, the dialogue in the negotiations — which are expected to deal with regional arms control, water resources, economic co-operation and the environment — threatens to become reduced to a one-sided debate.

At a meeting of Arab for-

eign ministers in Marrakesh, the atmosphere was far less optimistic as hardline states vowed to boycott the regional meeting until progress was first made at the bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbours.

Vitali Churkin, the Russian foreign ministry spokesman, has insisted for the past two weeks that Moscow will host the talks as planned, and arrangements for press coverage and accreditation are proceeding on that assumption. Behind the scenes, however, there is deep concern that the talks may simply not take place or be postponed.

The Moscow leg of the peace talks is especially important to Russia and to its president, Boris Yeltsin, because it will be the first world political event to be hosted by Russia as the successor state of the Soviet Union. President Yeltsin is believed to be planning a speech at the opening ceremony, which will be held in the Hall of Columns in Moscow.

Russia clearly hopes that the talks will put Moscow back on the international map and establish the coun-

try as a partner, if not quite an equal partner, with America. If no Middle East peace talks take place in Moscow next week that will confirm the suspicion voiced bitterly by conservative politicians that Russia is now a second-rank power.

If the talks in Moscow do go ahead, America, Russia, the European Community, Japan, Canada and the United Nations will all be represented, with Israel, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states. But none of the most populous and powerful countries in the region, including Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Algeria, will be represented.

● **Labour boost:** Israel's opposition Labour party is gaining popularity with the country's electorate, but is unlikely to overtake the ruling Likud party unless it changes leadership, an opinion poll conducted among 1,100 Jewish Israeli voters by the Smith Research Institute indicated yesterday. Support for Labour, led by Shimon Peres, stands at 27 per cent, while Likud at 32 per cent.

Algiers militants defy mosque ban

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIERS

ISLAMIC fundamentalist leaders in Algeria have defied a ban by the military-backed authorities on making political statements in mosques. At Friday prayers in Algiers leaders of the main religious party, the Islamic Salvation Front, denounced the country's new leader, Muhammad Boudiaf, and accused the army of being against the people.

Troops and riot police backed by water cannons sealed off the main mosques in the fundamentalist strongholds of Bab el Oued and Kouba. The security operation had begun the previous night, with police setting up roadblocks around the capital to stop fundamentalists from entering. The few that did make it to the mosques were prevented from gathering in nearby streets.

"This is Algerian democracy for you," said a salvation front supporter, after he had been stopped from going to the mosque. Elections were cancelled two weeks ago after the army intervened to prevent the front from coming to power.

In Bab el Oued police and troops sealed off the mosque and there was at least one machinegun mounted on a

tripod aimed towards the building. Bystanders said warning shots had been fired to disperse the crowd. They said that troops were preventing people from leaving the building. In nearby streets there were cries of: "Down with Boudiaf."

In Kouba riot police kept worshippers away from the main mosque where Muhammad Said, one of the principal leaders of the salvation front, was speaking. Mr Said launched a scathing attack on the authorities, describing Mr Boudiaf as a puppet who was brought in by the army to disguise what was really happening. Despite his fiery tone, Mr Said repeated his party's appeal for calm and restraint. The salvation front yesterday named Othmane Aissani, deputy chairman of its executive bureau, as its acting leader. He takes over from Abdelkader Hachani, who was arrested on Wednesday.

The security operations around the mosques are part of the campaign to eradicate the salvation front. Algiers plans to take the country's 10,000 mosques out of the party's control. They plan to replace fundamentalist imams with government-approved religious leaders.

Egypt 'foils foreign plot'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

Egypt announced yesterday it had foiled a plot by an unnamed foreign power to destabilise the country by infiltrating agents to agitate on the streets and carry out terrorist attacks.

The disclosure came amid tension caused by widespread opposition sympathy in Egypt for the plight of the Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria, denied the right to rule, and by spiralling price rises, one of which on bottled gas was halted this month after President Mubarak intervened.

All three semi-official Cairo papers yesterday gave prominence to a report to the cabinet by Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister, about the discovery of the plot. Although the foreign power was not named, there was speculation that fundamentalists from Iran or Sudan may have been involved.

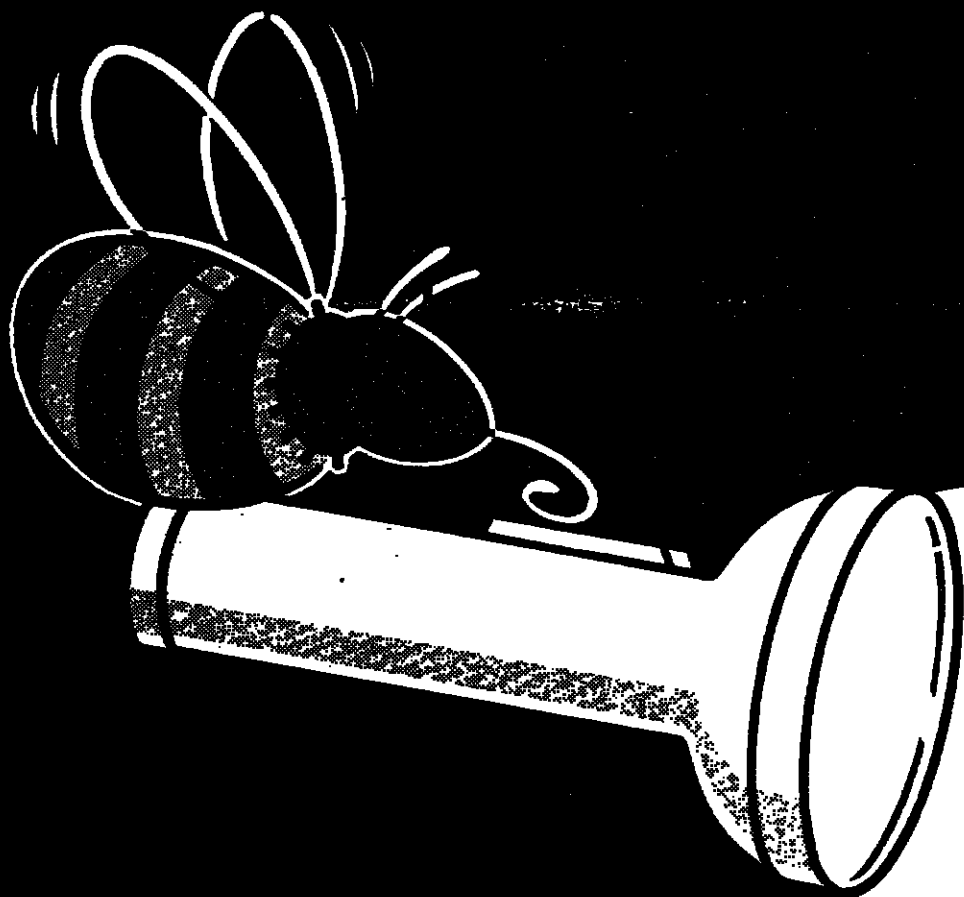
Egypt is one of the countries most closely affected by events in Algeria. In the past few months, hundreds of Islamic militants have been detained without trial under controversial emergency laws which were introduced after the assassination of President Sadat by Muslim fanatics in 1981. Some have al-

leged torture. Mr Mubarak's fears about a link between economic and political dissent have been increased by recent mass demonstrations in the key industrial town of Helwan against price rises. This month, the security forces declared a state of emergency at all railway stations after public fury at the introduction of a 25 per cent rise in ticket prices.

The price rises are part of a programme of reform which has been demanded by the International Monetary Fund. President Mubarak has repeatedly given warnings of the dangers of social unrest if adjustments are ordered too quickly. Government officials are also still mindful of the 1977 bread riots which nearly toppled Sadat.

The daily *al-Ahram* reported yesterday: "The cabinet debated a report on an attempt by a foreign country to send agents into Egypt to destabilise the country, starting with agitation and culminating with terrorist acts. The security forces in Egypt have recently aborted the plot. The minister of the interior's report asserted that stability prevailed."

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March nears Srinagar

Rebel rocket attack wrecks police base

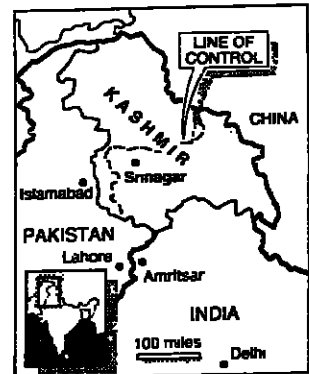
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

KASHMIRI separatists virtually destroyed the police headquarters in the state capital of Srinagar in a rocket attack yesterday, injuring several senior policemen.

The attack came as the army and paramilitary police braced themselves for trouble tomorrow when a mass procession of Hindus is due to reach the city, defying appeals from the Indian government to stay away.

Tensions in Kashmir and Punjab are exceptionally high because of the *ekta yatra* (journey of unity) organised by the hardline Hindu nationalist organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party. Thousands of people assembled in the mainly Hindu city of Jammu yesterday in readiness for the final leg of an 8,000-mile journey that began at the southern tip of India in December.

The declared aim has been to highlight the threat to India's unity posed by the Kashmiri uprising. The procession has conveyed a clear if unspoken anti-Muslim message.



threatening another bout of communal violence. The government is reluctant to play into the party's hands by halting the procession, although some ministers were insisting privately last night that it should be stopped because of the serious consequences if it came under attack from Muslim separatists. That would doubtless be portrayed by the party as a Pakistan-backed assault on Hindus, which in turn could provoke an anti-

Muslim backlash across the sensitive north.

Landslides caused by sleet and snow blocked the road from Jammu to Srinagar yesterday. It was not apparent last night whether the road would be cleared in time for the procession to reach Srinagar tomorrow, which is India's Republic Day.

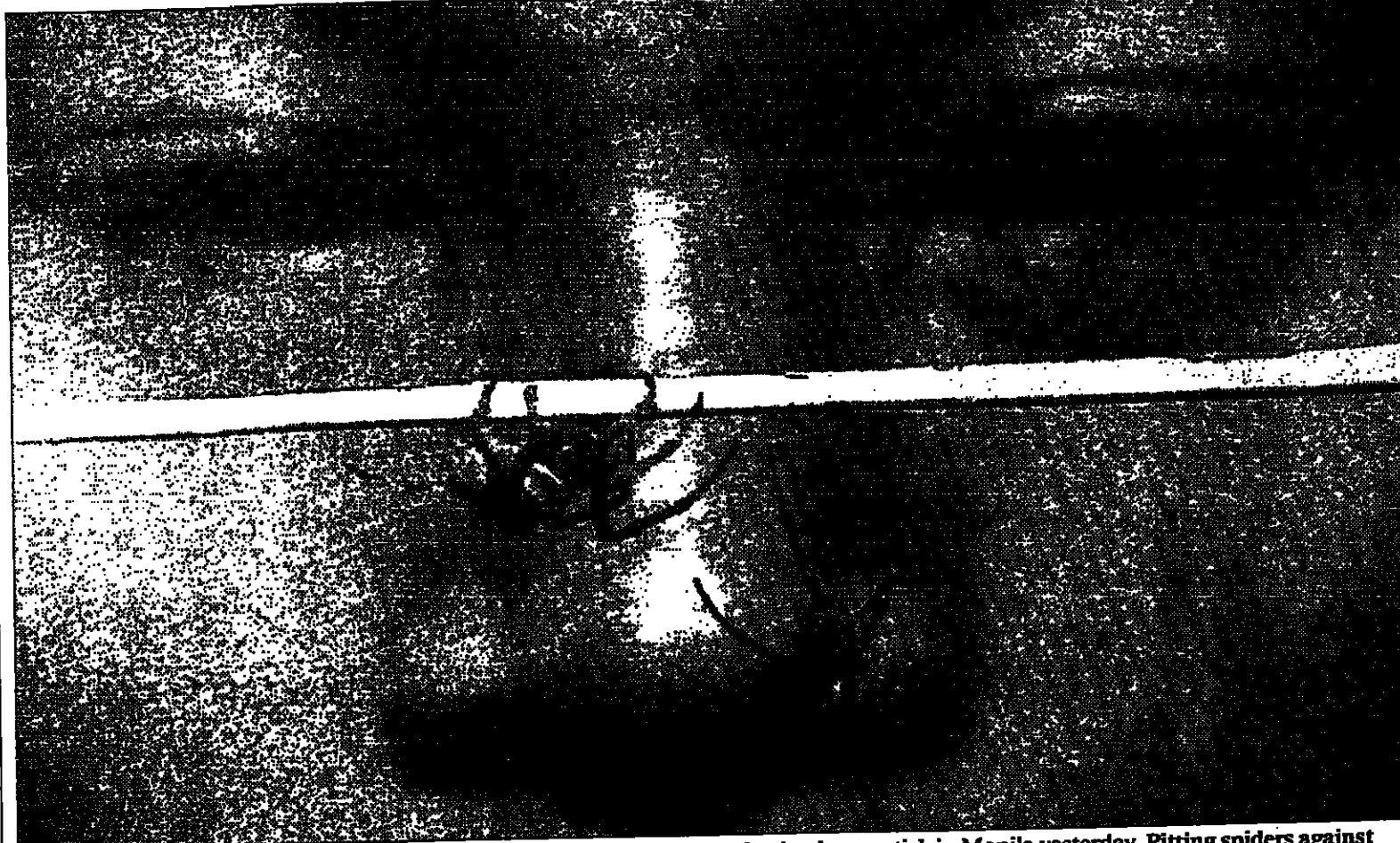
The government is clearly tempted to leave the road blocked; hasty high-level discussions were going on last night about what to do. Bharatiya Janata leaders repeated their refusal to call off the procession or to abandon plans to hoist the Indian flag at Lal Chowk in the old part of the city, which by tradition is an exclusively Muslim area. Lal Chowk is regarded as a militant stronghold.

The Kashmiri separatist battle, which began in the summer of 1989, is being portrayed by the Bharatiya Janata party as a Pakistani-supported Muslim assault on the unity of India. The government's worst fear is that the *ekta yatra* will be attacked by Kashmiri Muslims. If that happened, security forces might be unable to control any anti-Muslim backlash across the north because so many troops and paramilitary forces are in Punjab in readiness for elections due on February 19.

One of the main Punjabi political parties, the Akali Dal (Mann), says that it will hold a rally at Iqbal Park in Srinagar to coincide with the planned Hindu rally. The aim would be to highlight the interests of minorities.

The rising tensions are also being felt on the Pakistan side of Kashmir. The state administration of so-called "Azad" (free) Kashmir said that it would observe a "black day" to coincide with the Bharatiya Janata march to Srinagar. Pakistan radio quoted Qayyum Khan, the prime minister of the nominally independent state, as urging people to take part.

Special report, pages 16-17



Web of violence: Bernard Jarcia, aged 16, watching spiders fighting to the death on a stick in Manila yesterday. Pitting spiders against each other is a popular pastime among young Filipinos who train them for competition. The winner is given the victim as its prize

Japanese gumshoes eye up marriage season prospects

Ever-seasonal marital infidelity, coupled with springtime's nuptial flurry, means big business for private detectives. Joanna Pitman reports from Tokyo

KOSEI Tashiro smiled ingratiatingly and executed a flourishing nose-to-knees bow as his lugubrious octogenarian client lowered himself gingerly into an office armchair. "I personally trailed your honourable lady for six hours and then she disappeared into a soapland [Japanese brothel] with a young man. In the file you will find a full report on her new consort."

The dapper Mr Tashiro, aged 47, runs one of the most successful of Tokyo's 700 detective agencies, specialising in marital infidelity and investigations into the backgrounds of putative spouses. Last week's mission, the mysterious case of the girlfriend's boyfriend, began when a wealthy (and married) industrialist engaged Mr Tashiro to trail one of his mistresses whom he suspected of cavorting with a young man.

Within three days he had compiled a file on the boyfriend — his name, age, address, health, family background and financial situation. I fear my client has

been hoodwinked by this woman. After all, he was paying her large housing and spending allowances," he solemnly said later.

January is the busiest time of the year for Mr Tashiro. With his team of 18 detectives he has to deal with a flood of commissions to investigate potential spouses in time for the springtime wedding season. "For thousands of hard-working bachelors, the holiday at new year is the only time they have to find a wife. As soon as they spot a candidate, they begin negotiating marriage and then come to us to have the potential spouse checked out," he said, sounding as clinical as a property surveyor.

For E900, he will compile a 50-page report on her family and friends, her financial assets or liabilities, academic

record, possible career ambitions, health and incidence of hereditary illnesses. "The standard service takes less than a week and of course our target knows nothing about it. We also offer a de luxe service which includes information on the woman's cooking and cleaning abilities, personal tidiness and hygiene," he said.

Having picked up the rudiments of the trade at his father's knee, Mr Tashiro spent 20 years in official apprenticeship, going around Tokyo with a zoom lens and a notebook, before becoming a fully licensed detective. Ten years later he had set up his own outfit, the Research Information Centre, in Tokyo.

Today he is proud to point out that over half the bloodhounds on his team are women. "They are much better at the adultery cases, as women don't notice another woman close to them when they might notice a man." About 80 per cent of the women and almost 100 per cent of the men he investigates turn out to be having affairs. "If their wives are involved with another man, the men usually want a divorce, but women with proof of their husband's infidelity generally don't, because they fear not having enough money to live on."

With business booming this month, Mr Tashiro is on the lookout for new recruits. "I tend to scout among journalists, policemen and teachers. The job is tough."

But the tables may be turning on Japanese men who still assume they can take their pick of timid young women to turn into unquestioningly faithful wives. The fact that single men now outnumber single women by two million is dashing these dreams. Japanese women are beginning to grow more assertive in the realms of romance.

Japanese cannibal, page 1

Deng promises to keep Hong Kong free for 100 years

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HONG KONG

DENG Xiaoping, the paramount Chinese leader, says Peking will maintain Hong Kong's free-wheeling capitalist system for a hundred years after control of the colony reverts to Peking in 1997, according to an unidentified source quoted by the Chinese-language *Hong Kong Economic Times* yesterday.

The report said Mr Deng had reaffirmed China's commitment to guarantee the territory a "high degree of autonomy" for 50 years after the July 1, 1997, takeover. "I have said before that, once Hong Kong returns to the motherland, the capitalist system will be maintained for 50 years," he is quoted as saying. "The way I see it now, that guarantee won't change for a hundred years."

Mr Deng, aged 87, made his remarks in the Chinese city of Shenzhen in the booming special economic zone across the border from Hong Kong. The visit marked his first official public appearance for a year. Analysts said that Mr Deng's visit signalled his commitment to economic reform in China and to Hong Kong as a capitalist window to the free-market world. No observer, however, has suggested that it marks the be-

ginning of political liberalisation.

Mr Deng is believed to be using his trip to prepare for the 14th congress of the Chinese Communist party, which is expected later this year to carry out big shifts of personnel throughout the party and the military. With the paramount leader's backing, reformers are expected to hold the upper hand at the congress.

After leaving Shenzhen, Mr Deng travelled to nearby Zhuhai, a special economic zone that borders the Portuguese enclave of Macau, the reports said. Throughout his trip he has praised development in the Pearl river delta region, which boasts China's highest standard of living. In 1991, its industries grew an estimated 28 per cent.

● **Liberal attack:** Liberal politicians, yesterday, attacked China's plans to recruit advisers here as 1997 approaches, saying they would be yes-men and could undermine the British colony's increasingly assertive legislature. Some of the liberals, who are trying to push Hong Kong towards true democracy, said that the hand-picked advisers would wield an alarming amount of power. (Reuter)



Out and about: Deng Xiaoping being shown the sights of Shenzhen by Deng Nan, his daughter

Aquino choice upsets party

Manila: President Aquino today will endorse Fidel Ramos, aged 63, the former Philippines defence secretary, as her administration's candidate to succeed her in the country's May election (Abby Tan writes).

Political leaders of the ruling Philippine Democratic Struggle party said that they were disappointed that the party's nominee, Ramon Mitra, junior speaker of the House of Representatives, had failed to get the president's blessing.

War apology

Tokyo: Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, offering an apology of sorts, became the first Japanese leader to admit that his country was an aggressor in the second world war, and that it had committed atrocities against its Asian neighbours. (Reuter)

Fraud claims

Nonskotch: Mauritians voted in their first free presidential elections, but polling was dogged by bad organisation and opposition claims of fraud. Diplomats said it appeared that false identity cards were being issued to under-age voters. (Reuter)

Homes looted

Kinshasa: Zairean soldiers demanding a tenfold pay rise looted scores of houses in Kinshasa, killing at least two people, witnesses said. Armed troops raided homes and even robbed the national soccer squad, the Leopards, in their hotel. (Reuter)

Star dies

Sarasota, Florida: Freddie Bartholomew, the London-born child star of the 1930s whose name became synonymous with the boys he played in *David Copperfield* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, has died at the age of 67. (Obituary, page 14)

Security pact

Singapore: Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have agreed to step up co-operation on security, until recently a taboo area. But the leaders of ASEAN agreed that the group would not become a military alliance. (Reuter)

Hero freed

Peking: Chinese authorities have released Zhang Tieshang, a former student and hero of the 1970s Cultural Revolution, who was jailed 15 years ago for complicity with the Gang of Four, led by Mao Tse-tung's wife, Jiang Qing, press reports said. (AFP)

Sick transit

Cape Canaveral, Florida: Motion sickness hit crew members of the Discovery shuttle as they entered the second day of a mission, which aims in part to study nausea caused by weightlessness. President Bush planned to phone the crew. (Reuter)

Poison revenge

Tokyo: Ryoji Akashi, aged 28, has been sentenced to six years in prison for trying to get revenge on classmates and a teacher who had bullied him ten years earlier by poisoning beer and planting bombs at Mitagawa junior high school reunion. (AFP)

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One just wasn't enough. And now you've got to squeeze in an extra buggy and another child seat. Sounds like you need a new Sunny 5-Door LX. Its four doors and large tailgate give easy access to a spacious interior and generous 15.3 cu. ft. of luggage area. And it doesn't lack performance or equipment. Just like all new Sunnys there's a 16 valve twin-cam engine complete with catalytic converter. And the LX has luxuries like

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Pumping the gas for Uncle Sam

Motorists who pull into Bill Chartrand's Fina petrol station on Interstate 55 in southwestern Illinois now get a two-cent discount on every gallon if they are driving an American car.

Like many Americans stung by the recent charge by the speaker of the Japanese parliament that America was simply a "sub-contractor" of Japan, Mr Chartrand wanted to do his bit for the burgeoning Buy American movement.

Across the country, businessmen like him have begun offering concessions to people who buy goods labelled Made in the USA. The biggest gesture has come from the Monsanto Chemical Corp in St Louis, Missouri, which promised this week to give each of its 12,000 employees \$1,000 (£555) if they bought or leased a car built in North America before July 31.

Monsanto, which has seen a 10 per cent decline in the past year in its billion-dollar annual business with the car industry, justified the offer as an effort to stimulate America's economic recovery. But the

The Buy American movement is burgeoning as businessmen offer concessions to people who buy goods made in the USA, James Bone writes

firm's so-called Project Get Rolling follows the pattern of other campaigns with a distinctly anti-Japanese bent. Dr William Lippy, an ear surgeon from Warren, Ohio, got the ball rolling by starting a programme called Jump Start America two weeks ago after President Bush failed to get firm commitments during his trip to Japan about Japanese imports of American cars.

So far more than 130 Ohio companies have signed up to offer their workers \$200 to buy a used American car, \$400 for a new one and \$600 for a car made at the local General Motors plant at Lordstown. Describing himself as "embarrassed for the president", Dr Lippy hopes to get an extra 20,000 American cars sold in Ohio by

July 4, American Independence day.

Dan Quayle, the vice-president, has warned of the dangers of "mindless Japan bashing". But there is no sign that the anti-Japanese sentiment raging across America will abate soon.

The Los Angeles County Transportation Commission decided this week to cancel a \$122 million contract with the Japanese-owned Sumitomo Corp to build railway cars. Besieged by public protests about Japan stealing American jobs, the commission wants to set up its own factory.

The town board in a suburb of Rochester, New York, ruled against the purchase of a \$40,000 hydraulic excavator made in Japan, even though the nearest American equivalent cost \$15,000 more.

The American baseball commissioner has already issued a warning to the giant Japanese video company Nintendo about trying to buy the troubled Seattle Mariners, even though the team will probably have to move all the way to Florida if it is not rescued.

Newspaper columnists think nothing of writing analysis along the lines of the commentary by Carl Rowan published yesterday in the *New York Post*, which claimed: "I could tick off a dozen pieces of evidence that the Japanese are sinking into a 'we are the super race' mania that approaches that of the Aryans in Hitler's Third Reich."

A poll by the *Detroit Free Press*, the hometown paper for America's car industry, found that 51 per cent of car owners would only consider an American-made model when they next shopped for a car. Just four percent said they would only consider a foreign-made car.

Baseball buy, page 23

Yeltsin team wins approval for austerity budget

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE radical Russian government of President Yeltsin won its first real battle for survival yesterday, pushing an austerity budget for the first quarter of the year through a parliament that comprises a majority of former Communists.

Weapons spending is cut by more than 80 per cent and the budget cuts many big building projects and removes most branches of industry and agriculture from state control.

The budget was presented by Yegor Gaidar, the youthful deputy prime minister and finance minister, who has impressed even his fiercest critics with his singleminded commitment to balancing a budget that last year ran up an internal deficit of 108 billion roubles (£108 billion at the artificial rate) and restraining inflation. The principle of an annual budget has

been abandoned for the first phase of the economic reforms. The only concession made to the opposition yesterday was an undertaking that the next quarterly budget, due to be presented in March, would include an annual projection as well.

For the first quarter the total budget is set at 420.5 billion roubles, but envisages a likely deficit of 15 billion roubles. Spending on weapons procurement is to be cut by 7.5 times, with most of the savings transferred to soldiers' welfare and 13.5 billion roubles reserved for the conversion of military industries to civilian production.

A recurring theme of Mr Gaidar's address was the extent of Russian dependence on Western assistance and good will. Grain imports, he said, could be afforded only because the Group of Seven

industrialised nations had agreed to defer debt repayments. When asked to increase spending on agriculture, education and science, he said that that was hardly possible because "we lost our economic sovereignty some time ago".

Contrary to usual parliamentary procedure, Mr Gaidar had an official opponent in the shape of Alexander Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary budget committee, who delivered a formal riposte, claiming that the figures were too optimistic. A written submission from the committee included alternative projections and described the government's budget as suffering from low-quality analysis and lacking any clear plan of action.

Despite much vocal support from deputies, the committee's arguments were rejected. Between them, Mr Yeltsin, who demonstrated his support for his finance minister by making one of his rare appearances in the parliament, and Mr Gaidar had managed to split the powerful military alliance of the armed forces and the arms manufacturers, something former President Gorbachev was never able to do.

Mr Gaidar accomplished that feat by transferring — at least on paper — much of the money to be saved from arms procurement to servicemen's pay and welfare programmes. A survey published yesterday in the conservative paper, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, said that more than 300,000 servicemen's families were without permanent housing and the figure would rise as the withdrawal from Eastern Europe and non-Russian republics continued.

The extent of the rift between the servicemen and the military industrial complex was symbolised by a speech in support of the government by the head of the armed services financial committee, who said that it had for the first time understood the soldiers' priorities, and the presence of several exceptionally well dressed directors from the arms industry grumbling in the gallery.

Some believed yesterday that conservative lobby groups had been "squared" in advance by Mr Yeltsin and Russian Khasbulatov, the chairman of parliament. They had permitted a jingoistic debate the previous evening on Russia's claims to the southern region of the Crimea (which was transferred to Ukraine by Khrushchev in 1954) and the command of the Black Sea fleet.

Observers noted that, although the debate had been fast and furious, the formal documents delegated the two issues to working groups and committees, where they could languish for weeks.



Gaidar: committed to balancing the books



"I have seen with my own eyes that the new regime has equipment, such as field guns and brand new machine-guns, which they could only have received from the Soviet army — it would be impossible to buy such equipment on the black market," he added.

On the ice-covered road in the prosperous farming country which leads to Zugdidi, dishevelled groups of men with hunting rifles stopped cars and aggressively demanded to see identity papers. Bitterness is running particularly high in Zugdidi because dozens of youths were killed or injured in the defence of the parliament in Tbilisi from which Mr Gamsakhurdia was driven out by artillery bombardment on January 6.

"Whatever settlement is agreed by our leaders will run into objections from people who have lost sons in Tbilisi," one resident complained. The angry mood in Zugdidi suggests that it will be difficult to implement any peace terms that are hammered out between the new regime and community leaders.

Outside the offices of the former Communist party, an angry mob, of the kind that has regularly beaten up opponents of President Gamsakhurdia in other parts of Georgia, milled in search of someone on whom to vent their rage. Passions were further inflamed by the partial destruction by persons unknown of one of the town's main bakeries, which threatened to exacerbate the town's already acute economic hardship.

Fugitive leader's bastion crumbles

Gamsakhurdia supporters have gone underground and anarchy threatens his western Georgian stronghold. Bruce Clark writes from Zugdidi

THIS diehard bastion of loyalty to Georgia's overthrown president was crumbling yesterday into a dangerous state of anarchy as Zviad Gamsakhurdia's leading local supporters went underground and the town's residents pledged to take the struggle into their own hands.

In the town's prefecture, which was vandalised and robbed by unknown intruders during the night, disorganised gangs roamed sullenly about the offices from which the pro-Gamsakhurdia struggle was being co-ordinated until a few days ago. A youth who was manning one of the prefecture's main offices admitted that he did not know exactly who was leading the armed struggle against the new regime in the former Soviet republic after the injury of a local commander in recent fighting.

The youth, a laboratory assistant in normal life, said that the prominent public figures involved in the struggle hitherto, such as Valter Shulgaya, the former dissident, and Indiko Kobalia, the regional governor, were at a secret location. A bridge linking Zugdidi with Sanaki less than 30 miles away, where the new regime's forces are encamped, was blown up last night, cutting one of Georgia's main east-west arteries.

A pro-Gamsakhurdia activist who would give his name only as Vakhtang, one of the few people exercising any authority in the prefecture, said of the explosion: "Nobody knows who did it; it appears to have been a spontaneous act." Residents said there had been a wave of burglaries as criminals took advantage of the general chaos.

"The people are out of control. They want to attack the regime's quarters with their bare hands, but we are trying not to let them," said Vakhtang. The activist, expressing a widely held view among Mr Gamsakhurdia's supporters, said people here viewed the advance of the new regime's forces as equivalent to the march of the bolsheviks through Georgia in 1921.

America sends in aid peacemakers

The US wants to strike a moral gesture in former Soviet cities, Mary Dejevsky and Martin Fletcher write



Bleak times: a woman trying to swap a sweater for fish at a Moscow market. America hopes to alleviate food shortages with an airlift this weekend

AMERICA'S contribution of \$61 million (£34 million) in food and medicine to be airlifted into the republics of the former Soviet Union may sound impressive, but it compares poorly with the 450 million roubles (£320 million) in food aid promised by the European Community.

In fact, it is only a third of the amount already being sent by the EC in the form of emergency aid to Moscow and St Petersburg. Since, under present plans, American aid will be distributed in more regions and more republics than the EC's, it risks being very thinly spread indeed.

The appearance of US Air Force personnel on the streets of Russian towns and cities will probably be welcomed by all except the most orthodox of the old thinkers. There is a profound popular mistrust of all home-grown institutions, and direct distribution by foreign aid donors is welcomed by the recipients as a guarantee of incorruptibility.

If American servicemen in uniform are used to deliver the aid, this would undoubtedly be used by old-guard politicians as ammunition against the present republic and city governments, who would be accused of selling out to the former enemy. The government would probably be charged as well with having brought the former Soviet Union to the point where it needs charity, even from the other superpower's armed forces, despite this being largely a result of the ruined economy they inherited.

The food dispatched as part of the Community's emergency initiative, which may be the closest parallel to the operation planned by America, is distributed in different ways. When it arrives by sea, air or road, it is usually taken to vast warehouses to await distribution. Much of the emergency aid to Moscow and St Petersburg is to be sold from

the warehouses at fixed prices to shop managers, who will pass it on to the public at an agreed markup. The proceeds from the warehouse sales are being earmarked for social funds. The process is monitored at each stage.

The idea of this method is, as far as possible, to prevent goods reaching the black market or to ensure, if they

do, that a reasonable proportion of the proceeds goes to the needy. Other programmes entail deliveries by charitable organisations direct to hospitals, orphanages and schools. In Moscow, each schoolchild has received at least two large drums of powdered milk and two tins of minced beef so far.

Even this direct method of

distribution, however, has not entirely eliminated abuses. Aid is stolen or sold (even by schoolchildren), or plundered by hospital or orphanage staff. Some of last year's aid, mostly sent from Western Europe through charities, is now appearing in commercial kiosks for sale at prices out of the reach of most Russians.

The ferrying-in of Ameri-

can aid will not be another Berlin airlift. The aim in this case is not to feed a starving people. Rather it is vividly to demonstrate the West's moral and political support at a moment of great hardship.

At the height of the 1948-49 Berlin airlift, a relief aircraft landed every 45 seconds in the allied zones of the city, which were surrounded by the then communist East Germany. In the present case, giant C5 and C141 military cargo planes will deliver 54 shipments of food and medicine to 12 republics over a two-week period.

American officials are urging other countries to join in and expand the effort. But, as James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said on Thursday: "No airlift could ever come close to meeting all the needs of the people of the new independent states." The purpose of Operation Provide Hope was to show that an old Cold War adversary was now prepared to use its military to wage peace, not war, he said.

The first C5 will take off from a US Air Force base near Frankfurt on February 10. In total the planes will deliver 16 million prepackaged meals which are left over from the Gulf war, some of it nearing the end of its shelf life. The food, mostly stored in Europe, was originally paid for by international contributions to the war effort.

The medical supplies will include a million doses of a general-purpose antibiotic and the equivalent of five C5 plane-loads of bandages, syringes, catheters and other material. These will also be drawn from unused Desert Storm stocks, although the Pentagon will send another 58 sea-container loads of surplus medical supplies now stored in California. The bill for use of the planes is put at between \$3 million and \$5 million.

The deliveries will be received and distributed by teams of Americans from the Pentagon and other US agencies. The size of the teams and of their military component is not yet known, but it will be the first time that American soldiers have operated within the Soviet Union in this way.

Lost in space, page 1

Factories reel from gas cuts

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

POLISH industry has begun shutting down production lines in the wake of Russia's unexpected cutback of natural gas deliveries. Adam Glapinski, the foreign trade minister, is expected to go to Moscow in the next few days to try to find a solution, a ministry spokesman said yesterday.

On December 24, Russia signed a contract with Poland to deliver 6.9 billion cubic metres of gas in 1992 in exchange for Polish food and machinery. Barely a week later, Moscow turned down the tap on the "friendship pipeline", built by the Poles during the communist era.

Poland is now getting 14 million cubic metres of gas a day instead of the 22 million agreed. It needs 35 million a day, with the balance supplied from Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian reserves. There is no pipeline to the West and its shipyards are unable to take delivery of containerised gas.

bill and wants the job. But the Dutch leader upset the federalists at Maastricht by being altogether much too sympathetic to his friend, Mr Major.

Now the French and Italian knives are out for Mr Lubbers: Paris and Rome are prompting fresh candidacies. Signor De Michelis, of course, requires little prompting to suggest himself for anything. As a reporter, with a vested interest in chaos and colour, I yearn for Signor de Michelis to win. As a European, I rather hope that Mr Lubbers makes it after all.

• Rome: Italy yesterday granted an \$8 billion lire (£3.7 million) line of credit for Albania and abolished all import quotas, except textiles, underscoring Rome's deepening commitment to its former Balkan colony. (Reuters)

Diary, page 12

Disco-dancer takes sensible steps

AS EUROPE plodded towards its date with destiny at the Maastricht summit last autumn, its politicians were worried by the odd, aberrant behaviour of one of their number. Gianni De Michelis turned sensible.

This time last year, the disco-dancing Italian foreign minister was busy with an exciting, but completely daft, plan for a grand security system in the Mediterranean — a region that Signor De Michelis cheerfully redefined as stretching from Mauritania to Afghanistan.

But in the spring he had switched to hatching discreet and sensible plans about European defence with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Nobody could quite figure out why Europe's liveliest foreign minister was so desperately seeking respectability. The answer is now out in the open: Signor De Michelis wants to succeed Jacques

Gianni De Michelis, Europe's liveliest foreign minister, yearns to take over the Commission. But George Brock thinks Brussels needs a steadier influence

Delors as president of the European Commission.

A year ago, the idea would have provoked uncontrollable giggles in the chancelleries of Europe. Now the possibility is being taken half-seriously.

At the Lisbon summit this summer, M Delors will probably be reappointed for a two-year term. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, would like him to stay in charge of the EC's bureaucracy: what Herr Kohl wants nowadays, Herr Kohl mostly gets. Britain will not object.

Herr Kohl extracted some concessions from John Major when promising German support for the prime minis-

ter's deal over the social chapter at Maastricht. Britain has piped down about German bullying on Yugoslavia. And as soon as the summit was over, London began hinting that another Brussels term for M Delors might be all right after all.

Until the Maastricht summit in December, the front runner to succeed M Delors was Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister for the past decade. The European variant of Buggins' turn decrees that a socialist president from a big country should be followed by a right-of-centre candidate from a small state. Mr Lubbers, a Christian Democrat, fits the

"Daddy, can we have a doggy?"

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NISSAN



Clifford Longley

Apologies are due to the Irish, but from whom?

Can nations ever allow themselves to say sorry? With the 20th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Londonderry being commemorated this weekend, the English, Scots and Welsh may wonder if there is any end to being blamed by the Irish. Will the massacre of 14 unarmed Irishmen by British soldiers on January 30, 1972 be as bitterly commemorated a century hence?

The Irish, on the other hand, may wonder how the other three tribes that occupy the British Isles can be so insensitive as to ask such questions. Particularly as they have not yet apologised.

But a collective apology implies collective guilt, even inherited collective guilt (as many of the crimes by or against the Irish go back generations). Collective guilt is a difficult notion. A teacher in Sidcup cannot be blamed for the actions of a paratrooper in the Bogside, nor can individuals be held personally accountable for the sins of their ancestors. The Christian doctrine of original sin refers to an inherited disposition or tendency towards wrong-doing — concupiscence — not to actual culpability being passed down from generation to generation.

One is culpable of one's own sins, nobody else's. If there is a moral indictment of the British for their treatment of the Irish, it must relate to actual wrongs, and to those responsible for them. The British cannot be expected to apologise for the crimes of their grandparents. But if ancestral guilt is out, there must nevertheless be such a thing as the transmission of sinful attitudes down the generations, by means such as an oral tradition of prejudice. This way a new generation appropriates to itself the sins of the old. The sin is in the transmitter, when the member of the older generation imparts to the young some prejudice which is unfounded. The sin is also in the receiver, for the acceptance of such a lie requires the overriding of an intuition for truth and decency. It is just not possible to believe "in all innocence" that all Jews, say, are intrinsically mean, that all the Irish are genetically drunken or lazy, or that all the British are by definition arrogant cold bullies. Racism is the sin of untrue generalisation, the poison of which enters the soul with the hatred contained in the lie.

As between any bully and victim, there is a malign symbiosis between the British and the Irish, and the sad 800 years of their mutually wounding history will not be healed while it lasts. Bloody Sunday in Derry is a classic instance of it. The army decision that day to fire on an unruly crowd of civil rights demonstrators was criticised (though not in language strong enough to amount to clear condemnation) by Lord Widgery, the English Lord Chief Justice, in his subsequent report. What he did not examine and repudiate, for he was neither historian nor psychologist nor neutral, was the prior attitude of mind of British soldiers, which made it conceivable for them to open fire on a crowd of civilians. It is not the same mental state which makes IRA gunmen want to kill British soldiers — the IRA are moved now by the desire for vengeance, the British then by unspoken contempt — but one attitude mirrors and provokes the other.

Both attitudes were handed down from earlier generations. Bloody Sunday was the best recruiting ground the IRA ever had. British moral indifference towards the Irish (even in the matter of issuing the troops with live bullets) prepared the way, and Irish resentment will be nursed for a century. But it was also just what the Irish were expecting to happen. They remember the Black and Tans. This was the symmetry of British and Irish mutual hostility once again fulfilled.

The effect of a true apology in personal affairs, if sincere and if accepted, is to break the cycle of reciprocity and retelling of ill-will which is otherwise endless. In religion, repentance marks the moment when beginning again becomes possible, when the slate is wiped clean. The cycle of revenge is naturally endless, and forgiveness or repentance is the exceptional course.

Saying sorry is a singular act of grace, which triggers the grace needed to accept it on the other side. If there can be a gratuitous cancellation of accumulated moral debt between the British and the Irish, then Bloody Sunday, if not this year then in some future year, would serve the right symbolic function. It deserves an offer of apology. The moral ins-and-outs of some incidents in the British-Irish relationship can be debated for ever, but Bloody Sunday put the British unambiguously in the wrong. It was murder, and somebody should say sorry.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Punctuality is the politeness of princes, they say. Actually it was Louis XVIII who said it first. And what he said was: "L'exactitude est la politesse des rois." But it is good business for the rest of us too, though difficult to achieve these days, with the congestion of the roads and the underfunding and demoralisation of public transport. Royals still usually manage to be punctual to the second, because of the tightness of their schedules, the demands of security, and the bad royal relations that result from keeping the public waiting in the cold. They also have police cars to prepare the way for her majesty, and make her paths straight.

Punctuality is still generally acknowledged as a virtue. But other forms of politeness are changing. Manners make a man, though I have known a Wykehamist or three who were pretty unmannerly. But men make the manners too. And manners are constantly changing. I met an Oxford tutor the other day who was complaining that her pupils did not reply to her invitations. Perhaps the abbreviation RSVP is no longer widely recognised. And, when you think about it, it is *un peu* pretentious. In our matey age, we need a new request for a reply. For students, some abbreviations: "Please reply on the food and drink will run out" should do the trick.

The new generation spends far less time fussing about the punctiliousness of politeness than any previous generation since Hen-

gist. They are right to have decided that it is not worth agonising about what is the correct kind of collar to wear with a black tie, or how to address a bishop. Most bishops these days seem to want to be addressed as Jim. But the old etiquette of good form, though absurd when carried to a candy deal of courtesy by Oscar, did at least establish rules that one could look up if necessary. There were highly entertaining guides to form, telling one when to curtsy and what to do when introduced to a duchess. In our new unstarchy world, when everyone is on kissing terms with everyone else, there are no guidelines.

So employees who have to deal with the public are sent away to charm schools to teach them elementary etiquette. The trouble is that charm schools are run by human resources specialists and public relations experts who have no idea of good manners anyway. So telephone operators in big companies tend to answer the phone by saying: "Good morning, Pension Fund Relocation International. Thank you for calling." I reply: "Thank you for answering." Which makes them laugh, especially if I have been waiting for an answer for 20 rings. But "Thank you for calling" is a *zaff* and effusive way of answering the phone. It is deemed to be chummy and warm, but must be infuriating to someone who has rung up to complain about the loss of his pension.

Another aspect of modern

manners is the growing use of "brilliant" (often shortened by the young to "brill" or "brilly") as a general purpose response. I do it myself, and it is hyperbolic and over-effusive. Recently I asked a simple question over the telephone in a way that merited no more than a simple "Thank you". The reply was "Brilliant". This seemed wholly inappropriate. It is destroying the word for the rare occasions when we need it. Our lack of commonly accepted etiquette and our terror of being thought stuffy drives out the plain old courtesies and introduces extravagances and absurdities.

The same process is driving out the old formal farewell of "goodbye", which is felt to be too cold. The thing to say these days when parting from somebody, even if you have only just met the person for the first time, and have no prospect of ever meeting again, is "Have a nice day". Crusty old gents are sometimes provoked to reply: "What business is it of yours? And that is a sloppy use of the adjective 'nice'." The expression is mandatory for those who serve at a counter in shops and offices. They have been sent to the same human resources charm school as the telephone operators. Top students from the charm school add the suffix "Missing you already" and they say "Cheers" to mean anything from goodbye to thank-you. The modern wish for informality and friendliness is a virtue. The commercial exploitation of it produces offensive absurdity.

Political drama may bristle and fume but it can provoke real argument, says Benedict Nightingale

All the world's a soapbox

The Leeds press accused the play of pandering to Saddam Hussein. Marcus Fox, MP for Shipley, denounced its distortions. Ex-servicemen held a demonstration outside the West Yorkshire Playhouse, where it opened this week. Its author went on television to condemn Desert Storm as an act of savagery inflicted on the Third World by the developed world.

Trevor Griffiths's *The Gulf Between Us* was bound to seem anti-climactic after such a week. The most contentious moment in a cluttered piece comes after the bombing of a shelter. "What have we done to you that you would kill children?" demands a doctor, plonkingly adding that America was "forged and bred in brutal genocide" and that 20 per cent of the world's population consumes 80 per cent of its bounty. But at least the play shows that "political" drama, of late an increasingly elusive species, is not extinct.

Most of us are understandably suspicious of political drama. It need not be an excuse for ideologues to harangue us with specious opinions or, as in *The Gulf Between Us*, hit us with

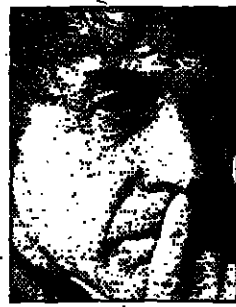
gratuitous statistics, but too often it has been. The characters need not be caricatures; lumpily emitting dialogue from the dough factory, but often they have been just that. No wonder political drama got a bad name when the likes of Nikolai Pogodin's *Artists* was acclaimed as a serious contribution to socialist thought.

Those "artists", believe it or not, were prisoners excavating the White Sea Canal. Led by a commandant who combines the skills of a scoutmaster, a therapist, and a play-group leader, "sabotaging engineers" are soon admitting their guilt like converts at a Salvation Army rally and becoming fanatics for progress. Hard cases end up humming, weeping with manly happiness and even tossing a Chekist in a blanket, while he draws the inevitable moral: "The forces that have drawn these people into socialist work are operating with unheard-of daring, with true Bolshevik au-

terity, and on the broad scale Comrade Stalin has taught us."

Actually, many thousands perished as they dug the comrades' aqueous folly. Yet *Artists* was a success not only in the Soviet Union: our own Unity Theatre chose it to open its new London playhouse in 1937, explaining that the new Russia's "reconstruction of human beings stands in significant contrast to our own wretched prison systems". Drama had become deception, and some must have been conned.

That is an extreme case, but the danger is obvious and not always avoided now. Ideology dictates observation, instead of observation determining ideology. For an example nearer home, consider Edward Bond's recent *Jackets*. An army padre



Griffiths: keeping politics alive on stage

mocks his flock as "vermin and scum", and an officer uses a squabble as a kamikaze agent provocateur whose death will allow mass internment. The squabble re-opens, of his class teacher, asks a more authentically proletarian comrade to shoot him.

and, denied this favour, pots himself. The moral divide between Them and Us is confrontingly absolute. Seeing the play is like watching someone measure the universe with a ruler. The best political drama does not distort or simplify reality in order to reinforce preconception. It puts theory to the test of experience. It aims to open rather than close minds. It presumes questions to answer them. It is unafraid of contradiction and complexity. It

may annoy, but it welcomes an argument.

Sophocles's *Antigone*, which weighs the individual's obligations to the collective, is the first great political play. *Julius Caesar* and *Coriolanus* also belong to that rough category. In our century, Sean O'Casey wrote plays so politically honest that he had to leave Ireland. More recently, Tom Stoppard has written stimulatingly from a right-of-centre stance, and David Hare, David Edgar and Caryl Churchill from a leftist one. Hare's *Plenty* and Churchill's *Top Girls* are among the most incisive works of our time, as is Trevor Griffiths's study of the politics of laughter, *Comedians*.

There is even a place, if a less elevated one, for the drama of protest, for openly subjective plays which bristle and fume and insist that we share their impatience. This is a category that includes *America Hurrah!* — a nation reduced to two grinning puppets wrecking a

motel — and other work of the Vietnam era. Too often such plays have dwindled into clockwork "consciousness-raising", speechifying to the already converted, but they can imaginatively fizz across the footlights, as hard to ignore as Shakespeare's Antony in full, demagogic flow.

The trouble with Griffiths's *Gulf Between Us* is that it is neither one thing nor the other, neither intellectually provocative nor the outrageous affront that its critics claim. But in this it is typical of the times. The reasons are unclear. Some have even claimed that one of Mrs Thatcher's achievements was to reduce our more subversive dramatists to confused silence, as a cobra might hypnotise rabbits. At any rate, there have been fewer lively political plays in the past six years than there were in the previous six, and far fewer than in the Sixties and Seventies.

Even those who dislike being corralled by the socially conscious must admit this is a pity. Drama is, after all, a public medium, made for a public subject. Playwrights, of all artists, should be adding to the political debate. The truly exciting *Gulf* war play has yet to be written.

The battle of the superhulks

Tomorrow's Super Bowl clash will transfix America. Martin Fletcher thinks the game will spread far

During which single sporting event are advertisers willing to pay \$1.7 million a minute, or \$28,333 (£15,700) a second, for the most expensive commercial airtime in television history? A clue. It is the event for which, if last-minute plans work out, astronauts aboard the Discovery space shuttle will tomorrow night toss a coin 186 miles above the earth to decide which team kicks off.

It is the event which for four solid hours will transfix 120 million Americans (half the country); which will inspire them to consume more food and alcohol than on any other day save Christmas and Thanksgiving; which will virtually empty highways, will cause a drop in national crime rates, and rivet attention everywhere from soup kitchens to the White House.

It is, of course, the Super Bowl — the American extravaganza to end all extravaganzas — which is to be fought out in the giant Minneapolis Metrodome by the Washington Redskins and the Buffalo Bills.

Already Minneapolis's private airports are stiff with the corporate jets of VIP America, which has come to provide its clients with the ultimate in business entertainment (the chartered 747, incidentally, belongs to Jack Kent Cooke, the Redskins' 79-year-old billionaire owner, who has flown 400 guests up for a long weekend of revelry).

In the can are the brand new TV commercials for the latest product lines, unveilings of which have become an integral part of Super Bowl night. One company, Master Lock, customarily blows its entire promotional budget on a single Super Bowl slot, but this year's talk is all of Nike's new ad, featuring Mich-

ael Jordan, a basketball star, and Bugs Bunny.

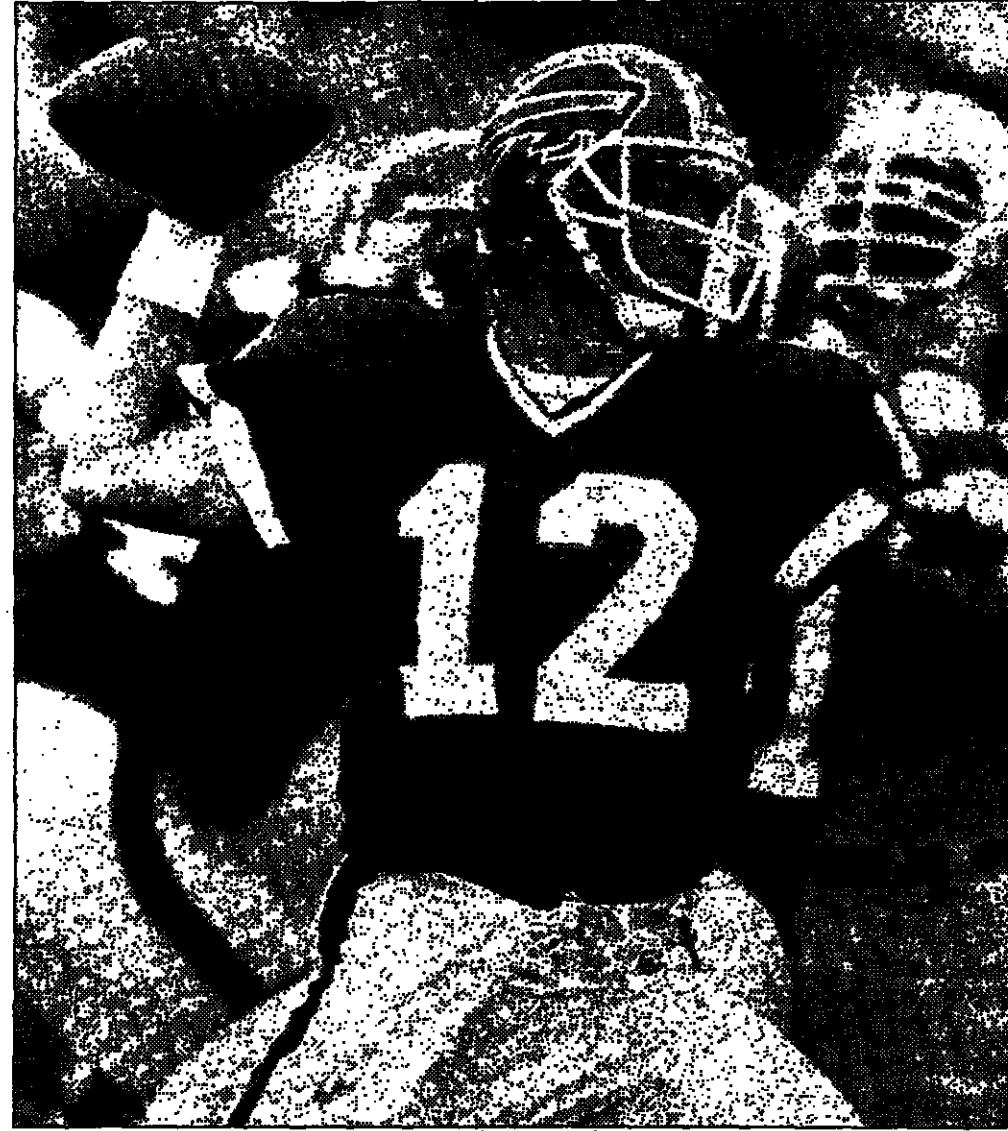
Ready and waiting are a fleet of snowploughs to ensure that a sudden snowstorm cannot prevent the 63,000-strong crowd from entering or leaving the Metrodome, and "warming" tents midway between the car parks and the stadium. Minneapolis is so cold in winter that enclosed pedestrian skywalks link all its city centre buildings. Attracting the Super Bowl was a \$100 million coup that the city would like to repeat.

And in Washington, where every game since 1966 has been sold-out, \$150 tickets for tomorrow's game are now being hawked for up to \$1,200 apiece. They say only two things unite this murderous, drug-ridden city: the Redskins and its Metro system. This year, with America mired in recession and anger against the president, only the Redskins are uniting the capital with its country.

The Stars and Stripes does not really bring this disparate nation together. Nor does the singing of "America the Beautiful". But bone-crunching, brutal and crassly commercialised football, in all its glorious extremes, does. It has conquered America. Can it now conquer the world?

In 1874, a team from Montreal's McGill University, wanting to play the English game of rugby, visited Harvard, which was at that time playing a derivative of soccer. They ended up playing one game with an oval ball, one with a round ball. Harvard so liked the idea of running and tackling as well as kicking that it melted the two sports into primitive American football.

The game did not exactly take off. It was nearly banned in



Jim Kelly, Buffalo Bills' quarterback, is he playing American football or human Nintendo?

1905, when 23 players were killed in a single season. The first professional association was not formed until 1920, and football did not begin to compete seriously with baseball until after the second world war. The first Super Bowl, between the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs, was not held until 1967, and the stadium was barely two-thirds full.

But since then football has exploded. Super Bowls now account for eight of the top 15 shows in the history of American television, and tomorrow's game will command a worldwide audience of 750 million in 60 countries.

That is still short of the 1.6 billion who watched soccer's 1990 World Cup final, but American football is fast gain-

ing ground. The British empire bequeathed cricket to the world. In the same way, the legacy of America's fading hegemony may conceivably be football, a game for the new world order.

It is not a participant's sport. It has nothing to do with standing on the sidelines on Saturday afternoons and rooting for the local side. It is a late-20th-century sport made by and

for television, one recent innovation being a camera in the quarterback's helmet which shows gargantuan opponents bearing down until suddenly the world turns upside down.

American football is human Nintendo. It is a technical game of downs and blocks and yardage gained. It is about the suppression of individuality. It is performed on a grid of artificial green by superhuman ciphers who perform their allotted tasks with robotic precision and shrug off mortal blows. There are some spectators who actually take portable televisions along to games, and who can blame them? Without the distancing of the small screen, one might notice that the violence is real.

Players suffer, and suffer badly. The 45-strong Redskins squad travels with a medical team of five, including an orthopaedic surgeon and a dentist. One 1989 study showed that 66 per cent of National Football League players who have retired since 1970 did so with some form of debilitating injury. "Every player I represent is injured to some extent in every game," Leigh Steinberg, an agent for 70 players, was recently quoted as saying.

On November 24 this year, Jeff Hostetler, the New York Giants' quarterback, suffered three fractured vertebrae but escaped permanent injury. The previous Sunday, playing the Los Angeles Rams, Mike Utley of the Detroit Lions landed on his head and is now permanently paralysed from the chest down.

But like everything else in American football, it all comes down to money. The average player this season will earn \$430,000. The Redskins are all on schemes that offer financial incentives for every pass caught, tackle made or yard rushed, and if they drive themselves on, if they win the Super Bowl tomorrow, they will be looking next season for \$1 million contracts.

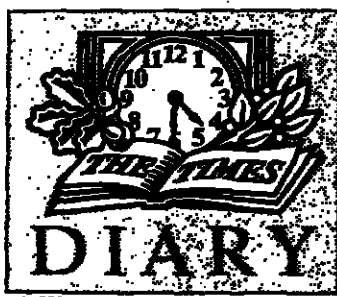
Doublet trouble

THERE will never be another costume drama like it. The BBC, in surely the most unusual January sale of them all, cleared out its wardrobes yesterday.

As a result, more than 2,000 costumes, worn by the likes of Sir John Gielgud, John Cleese, Susan Hampshire and Russ Abbot, were dispersed from a giant warehouse in Acton. Every turn past the glittering rails evoked a memory. Dalek costumes from one of their epic encounters with Dr Who were among the most popular, as were those from the attack on the Tardis by the Cybermen. They jostled with blue worn in *Hi-Fi* and velvet dresses and ruffled skirts from *The Onedin Line* and *Pride and Prejudice*. The lot including the dress worn by Glenda Jackson in Elizabeth R. went for £1,500.

With a thousand people milling around her, Judith Plessance, the auction catalogue, said: "A lot of people are here who have never been to an auction before. People get very sentimental about old TV programmes and the BBC in particular, hence the huge response."

Many people were bidding for the outfits because they were once worn by their favourite stars. Others went for more practical purposes. Jeremy Lemon, an English master at Harrow school, came to buy costumes for future Shakespeare productions. He spent £1,500 on a selection of 100 costumes, including the black doublet worn by Maggie Smith as Portia in the BBC's production of *Merchant of Venice*. He said: "It's so much cheaper than making our own costumes. We intend to put on *As You Like It* this year. These will be perfect."



Not everyone was so well organised. Katie Lloyd from Kennington, South London, put her hand up at the wrong time, and bought nearly 100 guide and scout uniforms. "I wanted the Mock Turtle suit," she said. "But I shall send some to my brother's children in Kenya. I'm not going back into the auction room again, it would be too dangerous."

Among his carefully preserved correspondence, John Sparrow, who died yesterday, had a letter from the government of Pakistan shortly after partition, asking him, as a distinguished member of the bar, to help to draft a constitution for the new state. The honour cannot have been lost upon him, but he had written across the bottom: "Declined, too busy."

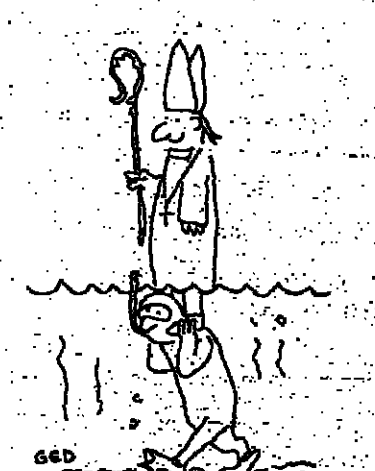
Name of the rosebowl

A £7,000 silver trophy has been returned to Stoke Poges golf club after collecting dust in a cupboard at the Dorchester Hotel for 60 years. The cupboard was stumbled upon by a security guard during refurbishment work at the hotel. The rosebowl disappeared from the club's trophy chest in 1928. When the hotel telephoned the club, officials consulted their records, which showed it had been

presented in 1919 for annual competition. The Dorchester says: "We think it must have been brought here at a drunken bachelor party." Now the trophy will be the subject of a new competition and will be renamed the Lane Jackson Dorchester Cup. But the mystery does not end there. As the Dorchester was built until 1931, where was the cup in the intervening three years?

A word from him

THE congregation of Gloucester Cathedral is expecting great things from its new bishop. The sermon in Gloucester on the Feast of the Ascension by Peter Ball, the outgoing Bishop of Lewes, is still being talked about 30 years after he made it.



The bishop, who is a member of the Community of the Glorious Ascension, was invited to the cathedral to preach to several hundred children. Halfway through his homily he suddenly ducked down into the depths of the pulpit. To the astonishment of the children,

he instantly reappeared in the organ loft some 15 feet above. Was it a miracle? Was it another ascension? No. It was Ball's identical twin brother, William, who is now the Bishop of Truro.

Ball says: "Now I am geographically closer to my brother, who knows what may happen. All those ten-year-olds are now 40. They will expect a repeat performance on us when I am enthroned on April 4th." Or perhaps the real thing.

Dramatic turnaround?

HOWARD BARKER, the radical playwright, is one of the last people you would expect to try to bolster John Major's image as a world statesman. But Barker is working on an opera which is likely to feature in the European Arts Festival to celebrate Britain's presidency of the EC, which begins in July.

The festival, which is Major's idea, is being organised by John Drummond, the outgoing controller of Radio 3. Barker is joining forces with the English National Opera and the Almeida Theatre, Islington, to combine experimental opera with theatre. Barker will provide the libretto, his first, for *Terrible Mouth*, based on the life of Goya.

Peter Jonas, the general director of the ENO, is holding talks with Drummond about staging the opera in the £6 million festival, which will last the six months of the presidency. The ENO is optimistic about the outcome of the talks.

Barker, whose production of *The Last Supper* at the Royal Court in 1988 managed to offend vegetarians and Christians by combining cannibalism with blasphemy, is keeping his fingers crossed that if the opera is performed in the festival Neil Kinnoch, not John Major, will be occupying the president's chair.



AFRICA AFTER APARTHEID

With yesterday's opening of the last apartheid parliament in Cape Town, power is sliding inesorably from South Africa's current rulers. But sliding where? And to what end? Africa's new realism can at least permit plain speaking. South Africa for the past quarter century has been by far the most stable political economy south of the Sahara, the most stable and the most prosperous. Migration, ultimate tell-tale of prosperity, has been from the black frontline states into South Africa. To be sure, stability was rooted in an immoral and ruthless dogma that eventually entailed its own downfall. But stable it has been, even as it struggles to reform.

That stability now rests not on the military imposition of a dogma but on hope of national political redemption. President de Klerk and the "opposition" leader, Nelson Mandela, must find a constitution that achieves that redemption without jeopardising stability. Nothing in Africa has proved so catastrophic as political insecurity. That a white-ruled, black-majority state should be passing from racist oligarchy to genuine reform with so little civil upheaval is remarkable. So far so good.

Mr de Klerk has implied that all racial groups in South Africa would be assured a place under the new constitutional sun. As preliminary negotiations have shown, this is easier said than done. Even his proposed referendum is afflicted by the apartheid disease, with vague assurances given that white voters can veto any constitutional plan. Such a veto ignores the momentum of democracy in his country, and may yet prove a mere tactic in the evolution of the negotiations. He must still guard his rear, though this seems a risky hostage to fortune.

In the interim, Mr de Klerk is likely to declare a non-racial government of sorts, co-opting multi-racial leaders into appropriate ministries. This will bring black participation into public administration, building up experience and giving patronage to new elites. Only fools pretend that the ANC can

take over government at once — and such fools do not include most black leaders.

A shift of power is already occurring. Nationalist ministers are consulting the ANC on most policies, including economic development and social services. One early casualty is the economic liberalism of the 1980s. Privatisation has been shelved. Public spending is soaring. The white Nationalist party is discovering similar socialist roots to its black counterparts. The unspoken white hope is that interim co-option might postpone the moment of truth, perhaps for many years.

But the moment of truth must come. Even Africa's governments need legitimacy. South Africa must either be a unitary black-ruled state, leading almost certainly to regional instability and secession, or it must install constitutional protection for the diversity of ethnic groups within its borders. Since attempts to entrench group rights within a unitary constitution tend to end in tears, entrenchment can only relate to geographical, not ethnic, subdivisions of states.

South Africa is fortunate in that its provinces have a vigorous sense of identity, from the Western Cape through the Orange Free State to Natal. Non-white voters are in a majority in all provinces, and in any conceivable subdivision. Hence the absurdity of the notion of a white homeland. The ethnic diversity of South Africa should be reflected in a constitution severely decentralised to provinces, in which a distinct political activity could develop.

This would need an exercise of self-abnegation quite alien to South African nationalists, black or white. South Africa's whites must lose their unique privileges. But they would retain their human and political rights better by insisting on a constitution that reduces Pretoria to relative impotence. Such a constitution is still far from being agreed, but it will be a fascinating final test of white power in a nation that has so much to offer the rest of Africa.

LAY THE GHOST

Hard though John Major and his colleagues try to exorcise it, the ghost of Margaret Thatcher's poll tax refuses to desert their feast. Since last autumn, ministers have begun to feel that the spectre's clammy hand was lifting at last. Abolition was in train, public protest had subsided, and most people were paying. Public protest all but ceased, following Norman Lamont's £140 a head subvention in his last Budget. Nineteen poll tax payers in twenty had coughed up what they owed for 1990-1. More nervous Tory MPs worried that the tide of bills on taxes might reopen the issue in the spring. But the tax dropped down the political agenda. According to Mori, poll tax and local government were reckoned an important issue by only one voter in ten by December.

Repeated private pleas by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for a new subvention to let the poorest non-payers off the tax next year, therefore, fell on deaf cabinet ears. Rumours of another handout to keep bills down in April were firmly denied. Recent court decisions have thrown these calculations in doubt. Magistrates in Bury St Edmunds dismissed proceedings against alleged poll-tax defaulters on the ground that they were based on computer records. Because these records had been typed in by clerks, they were said to represent hearsay evidence, ineligible under the justices' rules. This may seem a bizarre reading of the law, and a majority of magistrates in other courts have rejected such pleas. But, pending a higher court ruling, uncertainty persists. Councils fear that, if they pursue defaulters in these circumstances, they might be judged to be acting unlawfully.

Poll-tax collection, as a survey in *The Times* this week demonstrated, has been going rather better than expected this year. These rulings could jeopardise this progress, an uncomfortable prospect so near to polling day. Ministers have reacted with dispatch. Next week they are expected to announce a commencement order under the Civil Evi-

dence Act 1968 that will end all doubt over the eligibility of computer evidence. In addition the time limit for the collection of unpaid poll tax is to be extended from two years to six, so no one will escape tax through drawn-out court proceedings. *Mirabile dictu*, the Labour party has been equally straightforward. Bryan Gould yesterday put Labour behind the government in condemning non-payment. The two parties thus stand united behind the principle that taxes legislated by Parliament must be paid.

There can be no compromise on this issue as far as this year is concerned. Next year, 1992-3, matters are not so clear. This will be the last year of the poll tax. Some will genuinely claim that they thought it had been abolished already. More will disingenuously behave as if they thought so. There will also be outrage at the inclusion of large separately itemised sums for extra poll tax due to non-payment in the present year. Citizens of the London Borough of Lambeth who have obeyed the law so far will find, on some estimates, that they have to pay an extra £150 each as a result of the unwillingness of less scrupulous citizens.

To smooth matters over, the government would be wise to reconsider Mr Heseltine's proposal to let the poorest non-payers off next year. The environment secretary argued that four non-payers in five come from the poorest in the population. They are forced to find 20 per cent of their poll-tax liability from their own pockets. He proposed that they in effect be forgiven the tax in its last year, by a further subvention from the Treasury.

The latter is understandably reluctant. It claims that benefits to the poor have been increased to enable them to pay this 20 per cent themselves. Strictly, the Treasury is right. In practice, Mr Heseltine's proposal has much to commend it. For the government, it has the extra advantage of taking the heat out of an inflammatory issue just before an election. Even at this late hour they should embrace it.

LET BEETLES BOOM

No beetle is an island. Any beetle's death diminishes everyone, because it is ubiquitously involved in mankind in its most necessary activities. This week's Social Trends survey reveals that 142 different species of native British beetle are at risk of extinction. Beetles are generally neither as fluffy as the red squirrel nor as cute as the dormouse. None the less, is this the end of civilisation as we know it?

There are an awful lot of beetles in Britain. They are the dustmen and necessary small businessmen of the planet. Most feed upon other animals or plants, some eat decaying matter, to put it nicely. They constitute a quarter of all known organisms, a definition that includes daffodils as well as elephants. In the whole world there are about 400,000 described species of beetle, and up to eight million species that nobody has yet got around to describing. They include the largest and smallest of buzzers in the order of insects. They were clever enough to invent a kind of cricket-pat to wear upon their forewings. In the United Kingdom something like 4,000 species have been described so far, and there are plenty more waiting for description by unassuming postgraduates.

Little old beetles have done worthy work for English letters. The verb to beetle, meaning something between to jut over and to threaten, was coined by Shakespeare in *Lear* for the cliff that beetles o'er its base into the sea. This was formed from the epithet beetle-browed, meaning having shaggy eyebrows, like Denis Healey's. Nobody knows what this comes from, but the best bet is that it refers to the tufted antennae, which, in

some beetles, stand straight out from the head, and are not much fun to meet, for the nervous. Beetles have done their bit, from Gray's *Elegy*, where they wheel their droning flight, to the *Dream*, where they are invoked to approach not near, and quite right, too.

Since there are so vastly more species of beetle than any other organism, the Darwinian view is that the disappearance of a mere 142 species can be tolerated with equanimity. Let other beetle species fill the gap in the market-place. There are aesthetic, economic, and moral arguments against this line.

The heritage argument is that the places where beetles are vanishing are irreplaceable ancient woodlands, native fenlands, and coastal sites slumbered over by seaside holidays. If such habitats are lost, they can never be replaced. The economic argument is that because there are so many of them, and because they are so easily traceable, beetles are the best indicators of what is happening to the ecology. They are the keystone order. Nobody knows what useful chemicals may be there in undescribed beetle species. Take out chomping and busy beetles, and a whole ecosystem may collapse.

In June in Rio de Janeiro there is to be a United Nations conference on bio-diversity, which will establish conventions for saving the vanishing species of the planet. It will come down on the side of beetles. They may be prolific and busy, but they are useful. The moral argument is that the poor beetle that we tread upon, in corporeal suzerainty finds a pang as great as when the giant dies. Beetles are more useful than glanis. Tread softly, for you tread on our beetles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Concern over Labour's tax and spending programme

From Mr Keith Marsden
Sir, The Institute of Fiscal Studies claims that there will be more winners than losers under Labour's tax and spending plans (report, January 18). This might be the immediate effect. But voters should also be concerned about the impact of redistributive policies on their incomes in the medium and long term. It is instructive to compare the performance of the UK and its five main competitors under different tax regimes. During the 1970s, the UK's top marginal tax rate of 83 per cent, applied to incomes as low as £30,000, was more punitive than any of its rivals. The UK found itself at the bottom of the table on income growth during this period.

Mrs Thatcher more than halved the top tax rate to 40 per cent. According to statistics published by the World Bank the UK ranked first or second in the growth of GDP, private consumption and manufacturing earnings per employee during the 1980s. Only the UK and the US, which also reduced its marginal tax rate radically, achieved more rapid growth in the 1980s than in the 1970s, despite the more difficult global environment. Japan, Germany, France and Italy did not reform their tax regimes significantly. All experienced a deterioration in overall performance.

Political preoccupation with the current global recession should not obscure these long-term relationships. Of course, non-fiscal policies also play a part. However, voters should not be misled into thinking that they can get something for nothing by "soaking the rich".

Entrepreneurs, managers, engineers, doctors and other professionals form the bulk of the top 9 per cent of income earners who would lose from Labour's initial tax increases, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Their energies, innovations, and managerial and technical skills contribute greatly to the wellbeing of the average Briton.

Pensioners and lower-income workers have a self-interest to ensure, through the ballot box, that an increased tax burden on these professionals does not accelerate the brain drain from the UK in an

increasingly competitive and mobile world.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MARSDEN,
130 Chemin des Molles,
1293 Bellevue, Geneva,
Switzerland.
January 19.

From Mr Jacques A. Arnold, MP for Gravesend (Conservative)
Sir, Neil Kinnock has announced his prediction of a Labour government with a majority of 20 after the general election.

Yesterday, 25 of his backbenchers, led by Tony Benn and including Ken Livingston, Bernie Grant, Jeremy Corbyn and Dennis Skinner, put down an amendment to the economic debate, ignoring the official Labour amendment, in which they called for socialist policies including "major cuts in the arms budget, the harnessing of the nation's savings, and a fair and progressive taxation system" and also demanded "a restoration of local government democracy, full trade union rights..."

In the unlikely event of such a predicted Labour majority being achieved, the Labour government would rely on these 25 left wingers, and a further considerable number of left wingers currently lurking in the ranks of Labour's prospective parliamentary candidates.

Mr Kinnock must now tell us if he would capitulate to this group and their demands; or, if not, how he proposes to muzzle them and drag them into the voting lobbies.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
House of Commons.
January 23.

From Mr Roderick Hall
Sir, There has been much talk recently about the Labour party's plans, if elected, to increase National Insurance contributions to help pay for a wide range of spending programmes.

Funds taken from working people's wages for insurance or retirement should only be used for these specific purposes, and protected from the designs of predators of all

types, whether the funds are taken to support the price of Maxwell Communication Corporation shares or to fund a large list of political party spending programmes. In both cases this is theft.

It would be interesting to know to what extent such diversions have occurred in National Insurance payments in the last 20 years.

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK HALL,
63 Kingston House North,
Princes Gate, SW7.
January 17.

From Mr C. W. Crawford
Sir, The significance of the proposed Labour plan to introduce a 9 per cent surcharge (letters, January 15) on investment income in excess of £3,000 p.a. depends on the age chosen for individuals to be classed as pensioners.

Only recently has the whole question of company pensions been brought into the limelight with the revelations into the plundering of the Mirror Group and Maxwell Communication Corporation's pension funds. The issue is in fact much wider.

Only for benefits accruing after 1987 did the government bring in belated legislation for some form of indexation against inflation. For benefits accruing before that date the choice has been a deferred/frozen benefit or the related ludicrously low transfer value.

With the record number of redundancies since 1979, pension surpluses have enabled companies to take pension holidays on a massive scale or provide for enormous payments for retiring/deposed main board directors.

The difficulty of many individuals now in the 55 to 65 age group to accrue any worthwhile pension as a result of redundancy over the last 12 years should be seriously considered by the Labour party before any decision is reached on the pensionable age.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. CRAWFORD,
The Ryelands, 70 High Street,
Aldington, Wokingham, RG29 1JL.
January 15.

A grilling for the burgers

From the Chairman of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society
Sir, This society has been leading the campaign against the opening of a branch of McDonald's in Hampstead (report and leading article, January 18). In doing so we represent the views not only of residents but also those who work here and who visit.

The attraction of Hampstead is its difference: the last thing visitors want is a replica of their own chain-dominated high streets. We have too many chains here already; our aim is to encourage a variety of family-owned businesses.

As for "cheap and cheerful places" to eat, for those you disparage as "the hoi polloi", at the last count, within the past six weeks, there were ten take-aways, seven pubs serving cheap food, and a dozen or more places to buy sandwiches, all within a short walk of the proposed McDonald's site.

If McDonald's comes to Hampstead the aesthetic problem of its fascia and shop interior is likely to be responsibly resolved. Less easy to deal with will be the increase of litter, not only in the streets but on the Heath, and the traffic problems created by more fast-food delivery and collection in our narrow streets. But these are minor issues compared to the erosion of the character of one of the last charming and idiosyncratic places in London.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GORB, Chairman,
The Heath and Old Hampstead Society,
17 Redington Road,
Hampstead, NW3.

From Mr A. D. Wilson
Sir, I fully supported the original McDonald's application in the early Eighties to open a restaurant in Hampstead. Satisfying a food need apart, the strongest argument for it was that it would employ around 90 youngsters in three shifts, many from ethnic minorities. Camden Council was then constantly seeking measures to create jobs for such school-leavers and presumably still is.

The Heath and Old Hampstead Society's dirtier companions drop litter of all kinds everywhere. Do they seek to ban the sale of potato crisps and chocolate bars?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WILSON
(Director, Camden Chamber of Commerce, 1979-87),
Ashbrook, Aston Tirrill,
Didcot, Oxfordshire.
January 21.

From Mr S. Lewis
Sir, On the other side of London from Hampstead, geographically and economically, Tower Hamlets residents living around the Mile End Gate area have been fighting long and hard to stop a McDonald's from opening. Their reasons for not wanting a branch of this fast-food chain are exactly the same as for the people of Hampstead — the threat of noise, disturbance and litter.

The only place, in my view, for a McDonald's is in a shopping centre, well away from where people live.

Yours faithfully,
S. LEWIS,
55 Burr Close, E1,
January 18.

From Mr H. N. Heasman Norris
Sir, Those responsible for granting planning permission for McDonald's in Hampstead would do well to ask themselves whether the McDonald's in Stratford upon Avon, which in my opinion glazes with its red and yellow fascia and bright lighting, blends fittingly with its more subdued historic surroundings. My local McDonald's fast-food outlet has also caused a growing problem of litter in Eastbourne town centre.

Yours faithfully,
H. N. HEASMAN NORRIS,
17 Parsonage Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
January 20.

From Mr Helen Haste
Sir, Sometimes McDonald's does get the architecture right, but it may not make any difference. The McDonald's at Nuygen station, Budapest, is an exquisite reconstruction of a *fin de siècle* cafe, but the sight of young people coming out stuffing their mouths with buns destroyed the whole ambience for me when I saw it last summer.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN HASTE,
10 Belgrave Crescent, Bath, Avon.
January 18.

Prince who loved fires

From Mr Neil Wallington
Sir, The interesting reference by Alan Hamilton ("Story of two nations", January 18) to the role of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) as an amateur firefighter with London's Metropolitan Fire Brigade recalls one of the Prince's little-documented pastimes.

For over a decade or so there was an apparent press code of silence over Prince Edward's fairly regular and close-quarters involvement at those major London fires which he was able to attend. On these occasions, he would be properly rigged in an MFB uniform but with a special silver helmet, all of which was kept ready at Chandos Street fire station near Charing Cross.

One particularly large London

conflagration, which destroyed the Alhambra Theatre in Leicester Square on the night of December 7, 1882, well illustrates the silence of newspaper reporters. The ferocious blaze at one stage threatened to spread out into the streets of the West End. During firefighting operations, a huge wall and part of the theatre roof suddenly collapsed, killing two firemen and seriously injuring seven others.

A few days later, *The Times's* correspondent briefly reported: "The Prince of Wales, attended by his equerry, paid a visit on Saturday to the scene of the recent disastrous fire at the Alhambra Theatre and in Chesham... He was particularly interested in seeing where the firemen had met their deaths and later visited the injured firemen at the Charing Cross Hospital."

There was, of course, no mention that the Prince of Wales was paying

his second visit to the Alhambra scene. On that earlier dramatic night, he had been working alongside 200 MFB firemen and their steam pumps amid the swirling smoke and drifting sparks, having been taken to Leicester Square as soon as reinforcements were first called for.

The Times's correspondent, Jack White, later recorded that as dawn was breaking over Leicester Square on the fatal night the spread of fire had at last been finally checked. The Prince of Wales came up to Captain Eyrns Massey Shaw, chief officer of the MFB at the control point: "I think we've earned a cigar," he said, and produced a large cigar case.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WALLINGTON,
Foxfield House, Ebbford Lane,
Ebbford, Exeter, Devon.

'A Time to Dance'

From Mr Stanley Guy
Sir, Mr Norman Macmillan's defence (letter, January 20) the inclusion of a rape scene in his television production of *A Time to Dance*. I have not seen the first two episodes and will not see the last, but I was prompted to revisit the book upon which the serial is based, which I first read last year, when Mr Macmillan said: "I hope that the importance of this disturbing scene will be understood by the audience within the context of the whole work."

My second reading still shows there is only a very short part (on pages 79 and 80 in the paperback) where Bernadette describes the rape and there is barely a mention of it in

the rest of the book. Even the blurb on the cover is free of any comments about the traumatic consequences of this assault on the heroine in her passage through the book.

It seems to me the book is a shallow tale about an intelligent, uneducated young woman who is more interested in escaping from her dreadful family than she is in exorcising the trauma of her ordeal.

I am probably naive in expecting television to produce a faithful image of a book, but it does annoy me, and does nothing for the reputation of the author or the producer, when I am told that an explicit sex scene is crucial to the plot when it is clearly not.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY GUY,
10 Belsize Road, NW6.

Book Aid initiative

From the Chairman and Director of the Harold Macmillan Trust
Sir, The Book Aid initiative (*The Times*, January 17) is an excellent short-term response to the problem of providing the peoples of Russia and the neighbouring republics with a choice of reading material untainted by state propaganda.

Matthew d'Ancona mentions (article, January 20) local efforts in Eastern Europe to provide texts and support publications. Is this not the most important activity of all? In the long run, it is only by the development of local capacity to produce and distribute books that this continuing hunger can be satisfied.

While the immediate help given by Book Aid should be supported, the main thrust must be to bolster the long-term process of building up people's capacity to write well, and run effective publishing enterprises. The Harold Macmillan Trust does exactly that through its "Write-Aid" scheme.

In 1960 Harold Macmillan spoke of the wind of change in Africa. Today it blows through Eastern Europe and beyond.

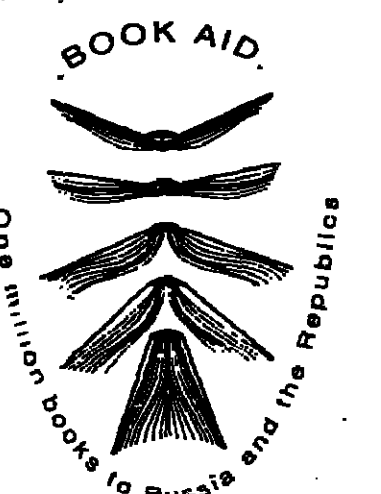
One way for the West to help is to provide the resources to finance the, long-term capacity to produce books. A mere fraction of the massive aid funds, rightly provided to meet immediate humanitarian and infra-

structural needs, invested thus, would pay immeasurable dividends. The newly won freedom to exchange ideas and knowledge might then have a real chance to flourish.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHEPHERD, Chairman,
JAMES HUSTON, Director,
The Harold Macmillan Trust,
107-109 Temple Chambers,
Temple Avenue, EC4A.
January 21.

From Mr Hugh I. Arnold
Sir, It took me some time to realise that the Book Aid logo (above) did not represent a page from a false-moustache catalogue.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH ARNOLD,
11 Dane Heights,
Seaford, East Sussex.
January 22.



Gulf war paintings

From Mr D. P. Marchessini
Sir, If John Keane (reports and photographs, January 15) had gone to the Gulf on his own, any pictures he produced would have been his own affair. But when he is sent to the Gulf by the Imperial War Museum in order to produce a pictorial record of the war, he is obliged to produce a record that is both accurate and respectful of those who fought and died there.

If he was not willing or able to do this, he should have refused the commission, and allowed someone more suitable to take his place.

Mr Keane may be, in his own words, a "coward", but the men who fought and died in the Gulf were not.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Marchessini & Co. Ltd.,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, SW1.

From Dr C. J. P. Beatty
Sir, John Keane's "Mickey Mouse at the Front" strikes me as exceptionally perceptive. Mickey Mouse is the cult symbol of our so-called civilisation. Fancy finding the dear little fellow the plaything of the Iraqis, too! I shall certainly try to visit the Imperial War Museum in March to see the full display of Keane's Gulf war pictures for myself.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. P. BEATTY,
12 Great Close, Cawood,
Selby, North Yorkshire.
January 15.

Tug of war plea

From the Director of the Royal Tournament
Sir, Every Olympic year new events appear in the Games. Some, like synchronised swimming, are little known. Is it not strange, therefore, that tug of war — a sport so well known and so popular throughout the British Isles — is not an event in the Olympic Games?

In this country tug of war is enjoyed at various levels of expertise. There are national competitions, pulls at Highland Games and agricultural shows, and most fun of all, pulls across ponds between neighbouring villages or even public houses. There is even an annual pull between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It is also a sport

valued by the armed forces and, each year, more Service teams from overseas ask to take part in the international competitions staged at the Royal Tournament.

For organisers it is easily and inexpensively staged; for spectators it is easily understood and for the contestants it is a tough trial of strength and team discipline.

Tug of war was once an Olympic event. Surely it is time that this historic and much loved event be restored to the Olympic Games.

Yours etc.,
IAIN FERGUSON,
Director, The Royal Tournament,
Wellington Barracks,
Birdcage Walk, SW1.
January 23.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 24: By command of The Queen, the Earl Howe, Lord in Waiting, called upon The President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania at the Meridian Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1, this morning, in order to bid farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty on his departure from this country.

KENSINGTON PALACE

January 24: The Prince of Wales today visited Norwich and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

His Royal Highness this morning visited Star-Rite Shoes, Come Road, Norwich.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon attended a meeting of business leaders at Sentinel House, Surrey Street, Norwich.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust and The Prince's Youth Business Trust, later met grant and loan recipients of those organisations at Sentinel House.

Mr Hugh Merfyll was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

January 24: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening arrived at RAF Northolt at the conclusion of Their Royal Highnesses' visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale, Miss Suzanne Marland and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 24: The Duke of Kent, President of The Royal United Services Institute, this morning received Group Captain David Bolton.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor of the University of Surrey, attended this afternoon a council meeting at the University.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Visitor of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, this afternoon received teachers and students from the Academy.

Birthdays

TODAY: The Rev Professor G.W. Anderson, theologian, 79; Mrs Cory Aquino, President of The Philippines, 59; Sir Tom Arnold, MP, 45; Mr Raymond Baxter, writer and broadcaster, 70; Viscount Blakenham, 54; Mr Russell Braddon, author, 71; the Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 86; Vice Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 79; the Earl of Coventry, 58; Dame Gwen Frangon-Davies, actress, 101; Sir Paul Girolami, chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 66; Mr Brian Hayes, HM Inspector of Constabulary, South East Region, 52; Lord Liffie, 84; Professor G.E.R. Lloyd, master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 59; Sir James Mellon, diplomat, 63; Sir John Moores, founder, Littlewoods Organisation, 96; Sir John Musker, broadcaster, 83; Sir David Nicholas, former chairman and chief executive, ITN, 62; Lord Justice Nicholas, 59; Air Commodore A.A. Reed, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 62; Mr David Shanks, chief constable, Avon and Somerset, 56; Miss Angela Thorne, actress, 53; Professor Edward Ullendorff, former professor of Ethiopian studies, 72; Viscount Watkinson, CH, 82; Admiral Sir Peter White, 73.

TOMORROW: Mr Ronald Allison, author and broadcaster, 60; the Marquess of Bath, 87; Mr

Michael Bentine, author and comedian, 70; Miss Marti Caine, comedienne, 47; Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidy, 67; Mr Timothy Clifford, director, National Galleries of Scotland, 46; Mrs Margaret Daly, MEP, 54; Mr Martin Dunn, editor, *Today*, 37; M. Stéphane Grappelli, violinist, 84; Mr Christopher Hampton, playwright, 49; Mr Kim Hughes, cricketer, 35; the Right Rev David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham, 67; Miss Eartha Kitt, singer, 64; Mr S.J.B. Langdale, former headmaster, Shrewsbury School, 55; His Honour J.C. Leonard, 67; Mrs Anne Macfarlane, Master of the Court of Protection, 62; Mr Paul Newman, actor, 67; Mr C. Price, director, Leeds Polytechnic, 60; Mr A.N. Solomon, chairman, Singer and Friedlander, 62; Dr John Sneyd, lexicographer, 83; Sir Charles Tidbury, former chairman, Whitbread and Company, 66; Mr M.R. Turner, publisher, 63; Mr Nigel Wamsley, chief executive, Carlton Television, 50; Miss Kaye Webb, founder, Puffin Club, 78.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Duchess of Kent will attend the *Evening Standard* British Film Awards at the Savoy Hotel at 7.10.

Appointments

Mr Christopher Long to be HM Ambassador to Egypt.
Mr Tim David, HM Ambassador designate to Fiji, to be concurrently British High Commissioner (non-resident) to Nauru.
Mr Terence Wood to be HM Ambassador to Austria.

Sir Brian Fall to be HM Ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Mr Nicholas Warren to be Chairman of Social Security Appeal Tribunals and Medical Appeal Tribunals in the Liverpool area.
Mr Richard Care to be Deputy Chief Adjudicator, Immigration Appeal.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.S. Cavendish and Miss L.A. Rogers
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs R.F. Cavendish, of Drayton St Leonard, Oxfordshire, and Lesley, daughter of Mr E.F. Rogers, of Wimbledon, London, and Mrs J.M. Rogers, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr C.M. Cuthbert and Miss S. Daa
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Cuthbert, of Budeigh, Somerset, and Sally, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Noel Dan, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr P.K. Ewing and Miss C.M. Heilmann
The engagement is announced between Peter Kent, son of Dr S. Ewing, of Walnut Creek, California, and Miss C.M. Heilmann, daughter of Mr C.F. Heilmann, of Greenwich, Connecticut, and Mrs M.M. Heilmann, of Lower Bourn, Farnham, Surrey.

Mr P.A. Honey and Miss A.M.T. Mead
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mrs Babs Honey and the late Mr Dick Honey, of Vagor-Elw, Farnborough, Hampshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mrs Mary Mead and the late Mr Roger Mead, of Blagdon, near Bristol.

Mr A.D. Kavanagh and Miss J.M. McKie
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs B.T. Kavanagh, of Romsley, West Midlands, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. McKie, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr C.S.M. Lawrence and Miss E.L. Wigley
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ian Lawrence, of Fontwell Magna, Shafesbury, Dorset, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Wigley, of Cherry Burton, Beverley, Humberside.

Mr J.M.D. McKimel and Miss S.K. Biddulph
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of the late Mr Bob McKimel and of Mrs Hazel Barclay, of Bradninch, Devon, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ross Biddulph, of Abbotsham, Devon.

Mr D. Mitchell and Miss S.J. Sanders
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs A.C. Mitchell, of Dumfries, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.H. Sanders, of Hove.

Mr J.S.T. Nelson and Miss C.E. Good
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Commander and Mrs J.G. Nelson, of Badminton Gardens, Bath, and Claire Emma, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs K.J.W. Good, of Bicester, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.H. Pearson and Miss L.A. Khoo
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr E. and Mrs M. Pearson, and Lisanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs K.L. Khoo, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr M.G.R. Perazzo and Miss C.E. Mackintosh
The engagement is announced between Massimo, son of Professore Edgardo and Signora Carla Perazzo, of Turin, Italy, and Cariona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Mackintosh, of Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire.

Mr N.A. Sims and Miss C.M. Morris
The engagement is announced between Nader Andrew, son of Mrs T.I. Sheta, of Thornton Heath, Surrey, and Clare Marie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Morris, of Purley, Surrey.

Mr J.A. Simpson and Miss K.K. Eddleston
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Simpson, of Higham West, Bedfordshire, and Katie, daughter of Mr David Eddleston, of West Kensington, and Mrs Richard Bishop, of Sursley, Berkshire.

Mr M.C.E. Wurtzburg and Miss S. Walker-Arnot
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Raymond Wurtzburg, of Kensington, London, and the late Mrs Lorna Wurtzburg, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr John Walker-Arnot, of Chipping Ongar, Essex, and Mrs Richard Aldridge, of Kingston, Devon.

Mr E.S. Young and Miss R.H. Fane de Salis
The engagement is announced between Edward, second son of Dr Robert and Professor the Reverend Frances Young, of Selly Park, Birmingham, and Rowena, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Fane de Salis, of Almondsbury, Bristol.

OBITUARIES

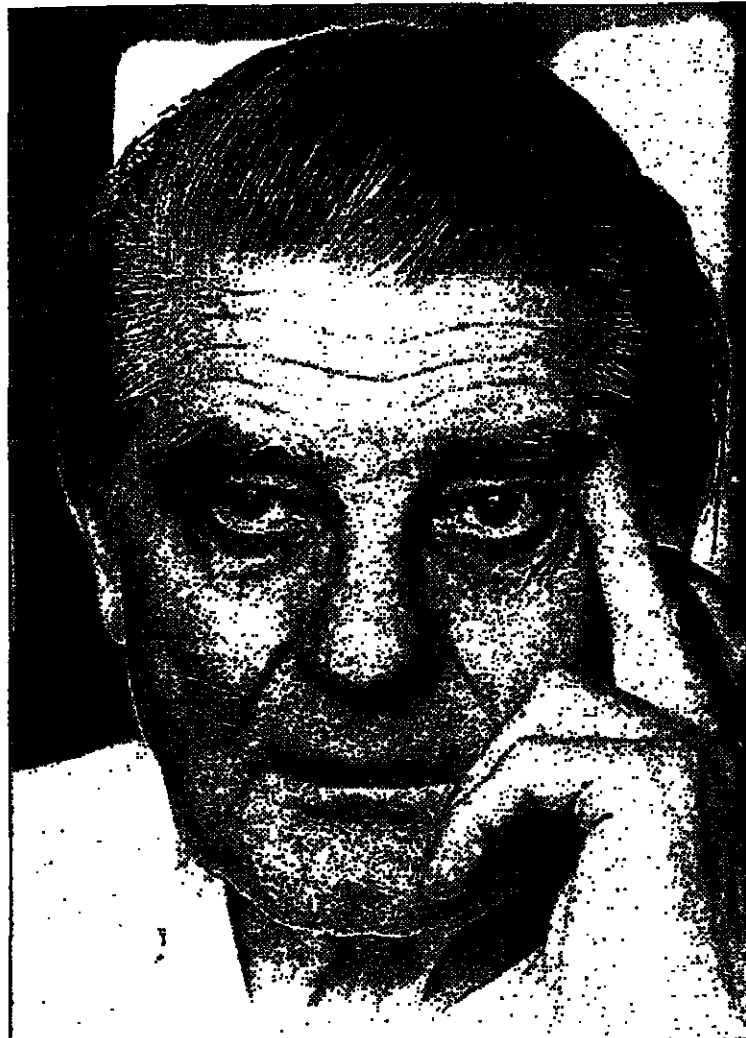
JOHN SPARROW

John Sparrow, OBE, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, 1952-77, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on November 13, 1906.

FEW Englishmen of his generation had a more distinguished, gifted and lively mind than John Sparrow. If it was not deeply speculative or metaphysical any subject presented to it. As a young lawyer his approach had been nimble and shrewd rather than profoundly studious. Yet he had all the qualities of the first class scholar. In later life and as Warden of All Souls he paid court to none, and always had time for the creative, the independent, the clever and the brave. He himself had all those qualities except for the first: he was once heard to say that to become a creative artist, he would cheerfully have forgone all else.

John Hanbury Angus Sparrow was the eldest child of Isaac Sparrow, a barrister who practised law and was comfortably off by inheritance. At Winchester John Sparrow shone both as scholar and as footballer. In 1925 he went up to New College, Oxford, as a scholar. He took in his stride a first in Honour Moderations in 1927 and the Chancellor's prize for Latin verse in 1929, but found the path to his first in Greats (1929) more arduous. However, Sparrow's classical proficiency and his flair for the rapid if somewhat superficial mastery of subjects quickly won him a fellowship after examination at All Souls College, and, rather against the advice of his close friend and mentor, Maurice Bowra, the young dean of Wadham, who seems to have seen in Sparrow a born Mods don, he decided to enter the Middle Temple and read for the Bar in the chambers of Cyril Radcliffe.

From 1931 Sparrow was a fully engaged and notably successful junior, working under Radcliffe in all-round Chancery practice. If the law to him was a game rather than an avocation, his lucid elegance of diction and his bland cogency in argument came off well in court. This was a time when he first became a welcome guest at dinner-parties in London and house-parties in the country where his wit and intellectual sparkle - rather in the mode, even consciously, of Sydney Smith - were specially valued. Winston Churchill was sufficiently aroused by him to growl across Venetia Montagu's table "I don't like young



men who darken counsel." Ironically enough, however, Sparrow, who in the Fifties and Sixties was often tilted at by progressive journalists as "a pillar of the Establishment", made something of a mark in the late Thirties with his acerbic thrusts in *The Times* and elsewhere at the appeasement line of the National Government.

In those days he was a frequent and vivacious reviewer of novels and poetry for the weekly magazines: though no commission pleased him more than being sent to report the appearance (and, to his sorrow, defeat) of Major Buckley's famous *Wolverhampton Wanderers* at the Wembley Cup Final of 1939. By then he had also established a serious and life-long reputation as a book-collector and bibliophile.

When war broke out Sparrow

surprised both family and friends by enlisting, in a genuine flash of the spirit of T. E. Lawrence, as a private in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. There is no doubt that he found happiness in the ranks and intended to stay there; but the powers that be had other ideas and in 1940 Sparrow was commissioned in the Coldstream Guards and was soon made military assistant to the Adjutant-General, Lieutenant-General Sir Colville Wemyss. When in June 1941 Wemyss was made head of the joint staff mission to Washington, Sparrow went with him as ADC, coinciding for the next six months in the American capital with two other All Souls luminaries of his generation, Isaiah Berlin and John Foster.

By January 1942 he was back with a Coldstream battalion in

training, but was soon summoned to assist General Sir Ronald Adam on the War Office's morale committee, a newly created and deeply influential organisation which was intended to by-pass the ordinary channels of military communication. The rest of the war Sparrow spent visiting the soldiers in training camp and in the front line in India, Persia, Italy and Germany. He became Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Assistant Adjutant-General, and was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and appointed OBE.

Return to the Bar after the war found Sparrow deeply divided within himself about his future. At 40 he knew that he had serious prospects of silk and the Bench; but the law seemed to him to demand only his expertise, and All Souls, where he had always been an active fellow, offered the chance of the scholar's life. A long-standing ambition was to write a definitive study of Mark Pattison (no one was more familiar than Sparrow with the Pattison MSS in the Bodleian); another was to contribute to Donne studies - and Sparrow while a schoolboy had published an edition of Donne's *Devotions*.

But in 1951 the Warden, B. H. Sumner, died and plunged the college into a hotly-contested election. Sparrow had few supporters to begin with; eventually he was one of the three to run forward from an over-large field to a tight and tense finish. Yet within nine months the somewhat reluctant victor, Sir Hubert Henderson, was dead, and Sparrow was now carried into office, on March 1, 1952, by an overwhelming majority of votes.

He did not make an eager start as Warden. He admired and appreciated fine scholarship; but he did not take university teachers altogether seriously. For the first dozen years of his wardenship, All Souls hardly took her full chance to play a vital role in the life of the university. But no one denied that he was a master of college business, a demureous chairman, and a discriminating lover of the fabric and traditions of All Souls, who undertook the beautifying of the Codrington Library and the Old Library and the rebuilding of the Hawksmoor Towers.

Assuredly his wardenship gave him time to write; and it might have been thought that he would produce a major study of Pattison. But it was his nature to put off the *magnum opus*, and to settle for the brief,

brilliant essays on "Mark Pattison and the Idea of a University", which were the Clark lectures for 1967. Sparrow was an effective essayist and reviewer. His prose was agile, graceful, ironic, although he never used his pen cruelly; and he had a taste for the anonymity long afforded by the front page of *The Times Literary Supplement*. Certain subjects drew him strongly: Donne, Pope, Tennyson, Housman, on all of whom he was a serious authority, and the poems of Bridges and his friend John Betjeman, which he edited. His general views on English poetry were expressed in *Sense and Poetry* (1934) and his Warton lecture "On Great Poetry" (1960); they may be termed both original and traditionalist, and betray an acute sensitivity to surface and texture in art.

His writings evince a delight in taking the unfashionable side, though more from a desire to make people think again than from pure mischief, and his unorthodox analysis of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* hugely inflated the sales of *Encounter* in 1961, evoked a pained uproar in many quarters and was never refuted. Some of the best of his occasional pieces were reprinted in *Independent Essays, Controversial Essays and After the Assassination*. They ranged from a spirited defence of the Warren report on President Kennedy's murder to severe criticism of what he called "the Revolving Students" of the Sixties. His specialist publications on aspects of Italian Renaissance Latin poetry and epigraphy and his collections (in the six volumes of *Lapidaria* (1943-70), *Visible Words* (the Sanders Lectures, 1969), *Line Upon Line*, and *Grave Epigrams* of unusual epitaphs and inscriptions (some of them his own) were of scholarly value, the output of an accomplished Latinist.

In retirement Sparrow remained in Oxford in accommodation provided by All Souls. He was a frequent visitor to college where he witnessed substantial changes, the admission of women fellows, a greater emphasis on academic research and increased participation by All Souls in the mainstream of university affairs. Although the innovations were not all to his taste, he remained a courteous, if occasionally mischievous, dinner companion. He was unmarried.

FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW

Freddie Bartholomew, Hollywood child star of the 1930s who became synonymous with American notions of a miniature English gentleman, died of emphysema on January 23 at a hospital in Sarasota, Florida, aged 67. He was born Frederick Llewellyn in Dublin in 1924.

LIKE many child actors, Freddie Bartholomew's time in the spotlight lasted only as long as his boyhood curls and his winsome grin. But while those looks and locks remained he captured motherly hearts on both sides of the Atlantic. By 1937 his salary had soared to \$2,500 a week, making him the highest paid Hollywood child star after Shirley Temple.

Initially abandoned by his parents, he was brought up by an aunt in Westminster, where he made his performing debut at the age of four. Bartholomew said later that his aunt, Millicent Mary Bartholomew, was so impressed by his recitation of a poem at a church social that she began to hawk him around the British film studios.

He won a number of small parts, beginning with *Fascination* in 1930, and soon

came to the attention of MGM. The studio engaged him to play in the title role in *David Copperfield* - as the young David only, with Frank Lawton taking over when he grew up - with W. C. Fields as Mr Micawber and some strong casting in the other roles. Bartholomew became an overnight star at the age of ten. Within days he had changed from Freddie to "Master Bartholomew". He had beaten Jackie Cooper, Louis B. Mayer's preferred choice, to the part.

Films followed in swift succession. A touch of haughtiness which made him quite the embryo grand seigneur made him a natural for *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, the film by which he will be best remembered. Before that he was mothered by Greta Garbo in Selznick's production of *Anna Karenina*. His weekly salary at Metro went up from \$500 to \$1,000 a week. Whenever a male child star was required Bartholomew appeared to get the job: *Kidnapped*, *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, even *A Yank at Erzerum*. His own favourite part was in *Captains Courageous* (1937), in which he played yet

another spoiled rich boy, courtesy Rudyard Kipling, who grows under the tutelage of a hard-bitten fisherman (Spencer Tracy).

The film took a year to make and was shot mostly off the coasts of Florida and California. "For a kid," Bartholomew said later, "it was like one long outing. Spencer Tracy, Lionel Barrymore, Mickey Rooney, Melvyn Douglas and I grew very close to one another in those 12 months. When the shooting was finished we cried like a bunch of babies when we said our goodbyes." Rooney was a regular screen sparring partner, playing the adolescent tough against the adolescent toff.

Not everyone was won over by Bartholomew's dark curls. Graham Greene noted his "lustrous and repulsive charm". And for all his fame, Bartholomew never became rich.

His parents resurfaced as soon as he achieved stardom, trying to regain custody of their son, and the ensuing law suits drained his fortune. The dispute was finally resolved in 1936 when it was agreed that his aunt would retain guardianship and his parents were given allowances for their living expenses out of his salary.

By 1939 Bartholomew had sheared off those trademark curls - to the horror of the media in general and photographers in particular - complaining that they were "too stiffified." He was now a gangling 15-year-old, and his days of stardom were over. He returned to school, after being formally adopted by his aunt.

During the second world war, almost unnoticed by the public, Bartholomew joined the US Air Force and became a maintenance worker on B-17 bombers. After his discharge he appeared in vaudeville and night club shows and performed in summer theatre, but was never able to re-establish his acting career. He made one last film, *St. Benny the Dip* in 1951, bringing his total to 24.

Bartholomew turned to directing television shows in the United States and in 1954 left showbusiness to work for the Benton and Bowles advertising agency in New York where he eventually became a vice president.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, a son and a daughter.



With Greta Garbo in *Anna Karenina*, 1935

Dinners

Keble College, Oxford
The Bishop of Rochester, President of the Middle and Junior Common Rooms were the guests.

Caledonian Club
Lord Ramsay, President of the Caledonian Club, and Lady Ramsay attended a Burns' night dinner held last night at the club. Sir Gordon Manzie proposed the toast to the "Immortal memory" and Mr Michael Billingham and Mrs Margaret Hall also spoke.

Royal College of Radiologists
Dr T.K. Wheeler, Chairman of the Royal FRCR (Clinical Oncology) Examining Board, gave a dinner last night at the Royal College of Radiologists in honour of Dr N. Howard, recently retired chairman.

Scott's castle faces collapse

An 11th century castle made famous in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* is in danger of falling down unless English Heritage can find funds to pay for a new roof for the keep. Managers at Conisbrough castle, near Doncaster, want to turn it into a medieval centre attracting 100,000 tourists a year.

Evangelism must be revived, bishop says

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE church is failing to get its message across in a language that people can understand, according to Roy Williamson, who will be enthroned as the eighth Bishop of Southwark today.

The bishop spoke yesterday of his determination to move the decade of evangelism getting in the Church of England. His objectives are to see women ordained priests and to tackle racism throughout the church and society.

Bishop Williamson, aged 59, the former Bishop of Bradford, confessed to disappointment that the decade of evangelism had been slow to make an impact. He said: "It will be a great shame if the decade passes without the church asking itself pertinent questions about why people have left, why the church has been declining for so long."

Even people who might be persuaded to go to church are put off by its image, a "feeling that they have got to learn the language", he said. "The biggest question we must ask is what it is in modern culture

that militates against belief. May be it is no longer considered credible to believe."

In his recent book *Can you Spare a Minute?*, the bishop says that much of what goes on in the church appears irrelevant to others. "If I wasn't already a Christian pilgrim, I would need some convincing as to why I should become one - if it means joining the local church."

He continues: "Only those Christians who wear rose coloured spectacles would fail to see that the church is far from being the kind of community which God intended. There is no avoiding the fact that the institutional church is humiliated by its failure to be what it professes to be or what it is told to be."

As bishop of a diocese which covers all or part of 13 boroughs and is home to 31 MPs, he is proposing to spend as much time as possible on the road. "We need to pay attention to what people are saying," he said. "It does not mean changing the message."

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Robert Boyle, chemist, Lismore, Co. Waterford, 1627; Robert Burns, poet, Alloway, 1759; William Somerset Maugham, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1874; Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, London, 1882; Wilhelm Furtwängler, conductor, Berlin, 1886.

DEATHS: Dorothy Wordsworth, Rydal, Cumbria, 1855; Al Capone, gangster, Palm Island, Florida, 1947.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: George Sackville German (Lord George Sackville), 1st Viscount Sackville, soldier and politician, 1716; Benjamin Robert Haydon, painter (*Waiting for the Times*), Plymouth, 1786.

DEATHS: Edward Jenner, discoverer of vaccination, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, 1823; Theodore Gauthier, painter, Paris, 1824; Charles George Gordon, general, killed at Khartoum, 1885; Nikolaus Otto, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cologne, 1891; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Cambridge, 1893; Nikolai Vavilov, geneticist, Saratov labour camp, Siberia, 1943; Grace Moore, soprano and film actress, Copenhagen, 1947; Edward G. Robinson, actor, Los Angeles, 1973; James Cameron, journalist, 1985.

TODAY is Australia Day, commemorating the landing by Arthur Phillip in 1788. Hong Kong was proclaimed a British sovereign territory, 1841.

Skills of Bronze Age tin miners revealed

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

EXPLORATION of a prehistoric tin mine in southern Turkey has shown that production was much higher and extractive technology more advanced than had been thought. Underground mining using firebreathing to fracture the ore-bearing rock has been dated to over 4,500 years ago.

The study, at the Kestel mine site in the Taurus mountains near Adana, was carried out by the Peak District Mining Museum with British Academy sponsorship. Dr Lynn Willes, of the team, said that there had been much controversy over whether tin was mined underground in the Early Bronze Age but radiocarbon dating, analysis of ores and metallurgical debris, and pottery now made it quite certain.

The Kestel mine dates to about 2800-2100BC, and lies close to the tin sources reported four years ago. While that discovery solved the mystery of where the ancients obtained the vital alloy

for making bronze, the new work shows how the tin was extracted.

Production was on a more ambitious scale than initially estimated. "Several hundred tonnes at least, equivalent to thousands of tonnes of bronze," Dr Willes said. The mine was probably found originally by gold prospectors, and was rediscovered by Turkey's mineral exploration authority.

The earliest evidence for its use is around 2800-2600BC, but the main activity was a little later and continued until 2000BC, Dr Willes said. It was worked using fire and stone hammers, and an estimated 50,000 stone tools survive at the Kestel mine and nearby sites, including grinders needed to free the ore from the hard rock and crush it finely.

Part of the mine had been used as a burial chamber. Scattered bones of at least five people have been found, apparently buried in small chambers cut in the rock and then walled up.

Nation charts new course

India is abandoning socialism and disciplining the economy.

How much can its poor take?

Christopher Thomas reports

India's durability is vastly underestimated. Predictions of the break-up of the union have been made since 1947, when the old British Raj was partitioned and India became independent, and they are as wrong now as they were then. The "integrity" of India, to use the word preferred by Indians, has survived war with Pakistan, countless language and religious riots, many collapsed governments, severe poverty and 12 years of conflict in Punjab, where Sikh militants are demanding an independent state. It is also certain to outlast the uprising in Kashmir, now approaching its third anniversary; local Muslims want separation from India.

The assassination last May of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister and leader of the Congress (I) party, which many thought would bring political chaos, did not crack the foundations. Indeed, seven months later a confident and reasonably stable Congress government, headed by P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, has embarked on far-reaching economic reforms without as much as a murmur of protest from its rivals, apart from the enfeebled communists of West Bengal and Kerala. Mr Rao leads a minority government, but the opposition parties are not anxious for a new election.

There has been a change in the language of Indian politics, however. Everybody knows that reforms are inevitable. The death of the Soviet Union has made the traditional socialist rhetoric unfashionable and irrelevant, the more so at a time when officials from the International Monetary Fund are insisting on radical change. The poor will inevitably suffer under the new order, at least until the economy is on a sounder footing. The middle class, numbering perhaps 150 million people, will also

be squeezed. Subsidies are coming off, taxes are going up, and the prices of all basic essentials are rising rapidly. All this is revolutionary in a country traditionally resistant to change. The newspapers are filled every day with stories of sweeping reform, along with distressing reports of consequent hardship.

For all the political acceptance of change, India has in-built restraints that could prevent it from moving as fast as international agencies might like. The huge and powerful bureaucracy has always been geared to going slow, especially when its own personal interests are threatened. As every Indian politician knows, the bureaucracy can thwart anything it strongly dislikes. Apart from this significant brake on change, there is another crucial speed regulator — the poor.

The rate of reforms will have to be tailored to the ability of the masses to endure them. Many are already hungry and malnourished, not because there is inadequate food in the markets but because it is too expensive. It would not take much to drive huge numbers of people towards starvation. Press photographs of emaciated people in the small north-eastern state of Tripura, and hungry villagers in Andhra Pradesh, have sent a sharp warning that India's poorest are on the edge. There have already been strident protests in some areas.

Events in Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union have had a significant impact in India. The centralised political control jealously guarded by the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty since independence must clearly give way to a more balanced relationship. The Delhi government accepts this. How it will go about the process of devolution, however, has yet to be clarified.



Congress supporters campaigning in Delhi: India has had stable government since last year's election

What is clear is that the arrogant practice of dismissing state governments on blatantly political grounds will not be so easy any more. Biju Patnaik, the chief minister of the eastern state of Orissa, has said that states are no longer willing to be the vassals of Delhi. They insist on running more of their own affairs without interference.

Should the constitution be revised to create a loose federation of semi-independent states or can a more genuinely federal arrangement be worked out without tampering with the basic structure? Unlike the former Soviet Union, India is not an artificial creation, and has emotional and cultural bonds that hold it together naturally.

Somewhere in this complex debate the seeds of a solution to the Kashmir crisis might be taking root. The Kashmiri Muslims are virtually united in their dissatisfaction with the present situation and in calling for a break with India. On the other hand, despite Pakistani propaganda, their mood seems to be in favour of an independent Kashmir free of Pakistan as well as India.

In Delhi, the response of the government has been to look at the options for returning significant powers to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is currently under direct rule from Delhi, and it is willing to grant a large measure of autonomy in return for peace. But there are problems.

First, the government needs to provide for the election of a credible state administration. This will not be easy. A history of rigged polls makes the people suspicious, and elections would be difficult in the present hostile environment. There is little prospect of halting the armed uprising unless Pakistan stops supporting it.

Punjab is a different kind of problem, since there is hardly any popular support for the formation of an independent state. The terrorist organisations are feared, not liked. They rob, kidnap and murder ordinary people to ensure compliance with their ceaseless stream of instructions: do not speak Hindi; do not sing the Indian national

anthem; do not use contraceptives; do not listen to Indian television; do not run up the Indian flag; do not vote.

The militants, who want a Sikh state called Khalistan, are not as strong as they were, however, although they continue to kill at a phenomenal rate. The police have learned to march them in ferocity: last year's death tally, including militants, police and civilians, was a record 6,000. The lack of popular support for Khalistan gives the government hope that the terrorists can be crushed.

Kashmir's Muslim rebellion has helped fuel a Hindu backlash in India's northern heartland. This has taken the form of support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu nationalist organisation, which was on the political fringes only three years ago but has now risen to become the official opposition in the Lok Sabha, the lower house.

In 1990 the BJP whipped northern India into a fever over a disputed religious site in the holy city of Ayodhya. Hindu-Muslim riots across the northern Hindi-speaking belt. Governments collapsed in the turmoil. India lost international prestige. The economy was shattered. For more than two years the country was almost ungoverned and ungovernable.

It is a measure of India's capacity to endure punishment that it is again functioning and reasonably stable. Externally, too, under Mr Rao's leadership it has embarked on a new course. After nearly five decades of shunning the West, it is now seeking friendship with the United States and the European Community.

The abandonment of Jawaharlal Nehru's ideas of socialism and statism has coincided with the end of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty. India wants to be part of the world economy, and the Congress party's opponents find such a position impossible to oppose.

Nobody knows how long this redefining seal will last, without resistance. It depends on how much more the poor can take.

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Rapid progress: the Honda motorcycle factory is now more typical of India's economy than the plough. The rural poor are being hit hard in the race to a free market



U-turn to market economics

The country is now backing private enterprise. T.N. Ninan reports

By contrast with China or the former Soviet Union, India has until now always seen gradualism as the key to change. But not any more. In 12 months the country has made a radical change in economic direction — and, it is hoped, moved into a higher gear as well. For the Indian economy, 1991 was the year of the U-turn.

The policy was designed by Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, and his government to move the country away from bureaucratic control to freer markets, from inefficient state-owned enterprises and foreign investment, and from inward-looking policies implemented behind protectionist customs barriers to more confident, outward-oriented policies.

The aim was to move from a "subsidy raj", in which payments from public funds caused huge fiscal deficits, to more balanced budgets, and from heavy borrowing to making sure the country lived within its means.

The government was forced to make this fundamental change when India's foreign

exchange reserves dropped a year ago to barely 14 billion rupees (£295 million), enough to pay for less than two weeks' imports. Delhi arranged a standby loan with the International Monetary Fund, and introduced measures to stabilise and restructure the economy.

As a result, reserves have already risen to 100 billion rupees, equivalent to two months' import cover. The budget deficit has been reduced from 8.4 per cent of gross domestic product in 1990-91 to 6.5 per cent in the current year and next year's target is 5 per cent. A monetary squeeze has been introduced to contain demand and control inflation, which is still 12.6 per cent a year.

There has been partial privatisation of public-sector companies, a reduction in civil service jobs, and a new policy of making consumers pay for the full cost of government-supplied services. Bus fares in Delhi have been doubled, the prices of foodgrain issued through the public distribution system

have been raised by 30 per cent, and subsidies have been reduced on government-supplied fertiliser and eliminated on exports. Government expenditure has been cut.

The cumbersome licensing procedure for industrial start-ups has been scrapped, restrictions on expansion by large companies have been removed, majority foreign ownership of companies is now routine, rather than an exception, and trade policy has been rewritten to do away with most of the case-by-case licensing of imports.

Exports have been made more attractive by the devaluation of the rupee by 20 per cent last July, and cumulatively by about 40 per cent over the past 12 months.

More changes are coming. What remains of import licensing is expected to go by April, and so will the channeling of bulk commodity trade through state-owned trading companies. Interest rates have already been deregulated, and the same will soon apply to steel pricing and the

fixing of prices at which companies can issue shares. The rupee may be made freely convertible in the course of the year, ending decades of foreign exchange control.

The next budget, to be presented to parliament by Manmohan Singh, the finance minister, at the end of next month, is expected to include a cutback in customs tariffs to open the Indian economy to more foreign competition, and perhaps a reduction in corporate and income tax rates.

The measures to restrict imports announced in early 1991 in the effort to conserve dollars and prevent international default have been largely removed in recent weeks as the reserves have climbed.

Banking is to be deregulated, too, with greater room given to private and foreign-owned banks, and the restructuring of troubled government-owned banks that dominate the system. So far, the most important

success has been to get rid of the sense of panic about international liquidity. India's credit rating had taken repeated dives in 1990 and 1991, but Moody's, the credit rating agency, recently issued an encouraging report on the Indian economy seen as heralding an upgrading.

The fiscal cutbacks and monetary squeeze have forced industrial recession: production was down one per cent from April to September, interest rates have risen above 25 per cent, and economic growth has slowed to 3 per cent, compared with the previous 5.5 per cent. The danger is stagflation, a combination of inflation and stagnation, although the official forecast for growth next year is 4 per cent, and 5 per cent or more after that.

The collapse of the Soviet market, previously one of India's biggest, and the global trade slowdown have led to a 6 per cent drop in exports. Import restrictions have been responsible for a 15 per cent drop in imports, however, so that the trade deficit has

dropped dramatically. From now on, imports will be easier and cheaper, but exports are being encouraged and are expected to rise by 15-17 per cent next year.

International confidence in the Indian economy will probably take several months to return fully. Commercial lenders are still scarce, and so reliance on the IMF and the World Bank will continue, if not increase, which means bigger borrowings and probably stiffer conditions.

The big danger is of declining domestic support for reform. Industry is reeling under the recession and record interest rates that have already caused well-publicised layoffs. Public anger could rise if inflation is not controlled soon. The trade unions are beginning to get restive about a promised "exit" policy that will make it easier for sick companies to close down.

The political backlash would benefit not so much an enfeebled and confused Left as a centrist "nationalist" mainstream that resents change made at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank. Both Mr Rao and Dr Singh have said repeatedly that the changes would have been necessary even without loan conditions laid down by the two institutions.

The real U-turn is in the change in attitudes. It is finally appreciated that India cannot live beyond its means.

Farmers wait in vain for investment

India is a mostly rural country that is no longer predominantly agricultural. About 65 per cent of its people live in villages, and 60 per cent of its workforce is in agriculture, but the share of agriculture in the country's gross domestic product has fallen from two-thirds to one-third during the past four decades.

While the economy has diversified, the workforce has not and this has created severe population pressure and poverty on the land. India has 400 million acres of arable land for a rural population of 700 million, barely half an acre per person.

The yield of rice and wheat is lower in India than in its neighbours, largely because grain is grown in poor land

in a bad climate. The paradox is that while agricultural production has accelerated in the past decade, investment in agriculture has fallen. Grain output rose at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent during 1985-90, and other crops grew even faster. Yet agriculture's share of investment fell from 17.4 per cent in the 1970s to barely 10.5 per cent last year.

Most state governments in India are on the verge of bankruptcy, as a result of populist giveaways to voters. Charges for canal water do not even cover the maintenance cost of canals, let alone the cost of building irrigation systems. Farmers get electricity at throw-away rates, and in three southern states pay nothing at all if they have pumps of less than

five horsepower. They have also been receiving subsidised fertilisers and pesticides.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are urging price rises to pay for investment in irrigation, drainage, soil conservation and roads but the state governments are dragging their feet.

The World Bank argues that, after the depreciation of the rupee in the past few years, the price of rice, wheat and cotton in India is well

below international rates. India is discriminating against agriculture and in favour of industry.

Many Indian economists point out that farmers pay no income tax, so that low farm prices act as an equitable tax on larger farmers while keeping food prices low for the poor. But this means sacrificing some production (and exports) to alleviate poverty. The World Bank has highlighted the scope that India has to increase exports of cereals. The country needs to exploit its cheap labour and sunshine by focusing on labour-intensive fruits, vegetables and flowers for export.

India will have to devote most of its land, however, to feeding its own people, whose average calorie intake

of 2,200 per day is below the prescribed 2,400. China, for instance, has an actual intake of 2,400. Four good monsoons in a row have increased supplies, but grain prices have shot up 33 per cent because of higher support prices from the government.

India is a marginal food exporter today, mainly of a luxury rice variety prized in the Gulf. But the law of averages indicates that there will be a drought soon, and India may have to import.

The green revolution has fared well in areas with assured irrigation, but it has barely touched huge rain-fed areas that account for 70 per cent of cultivated land.

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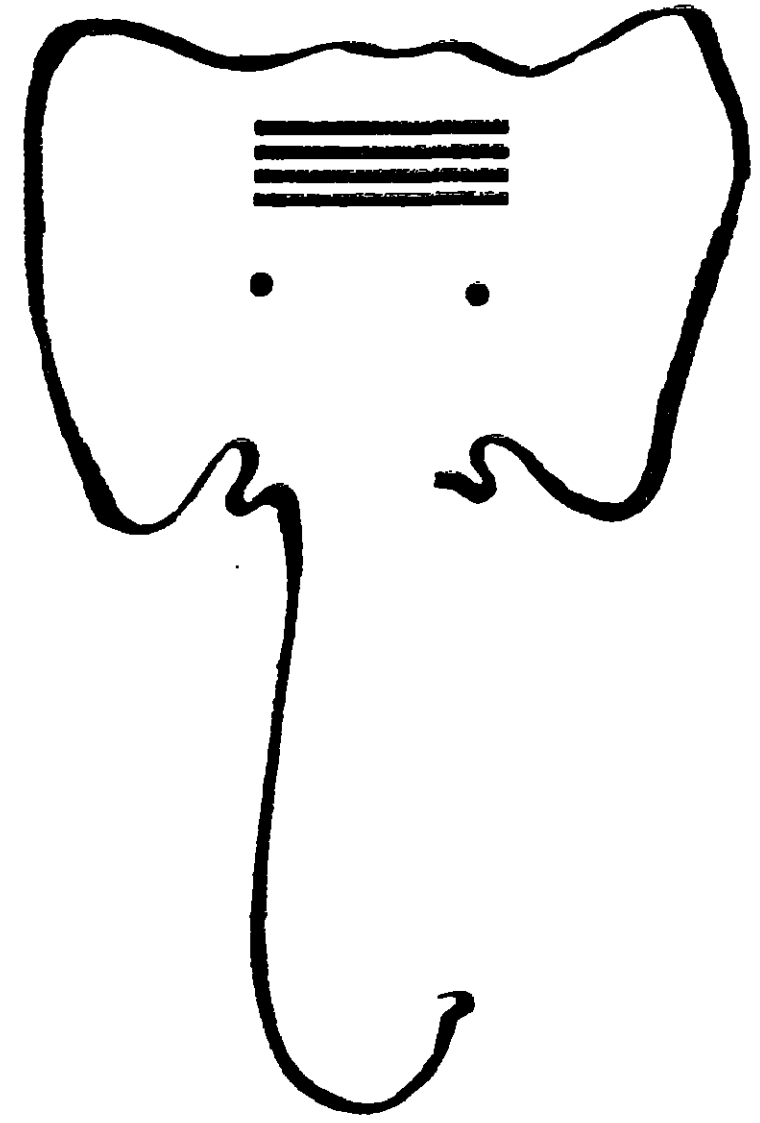
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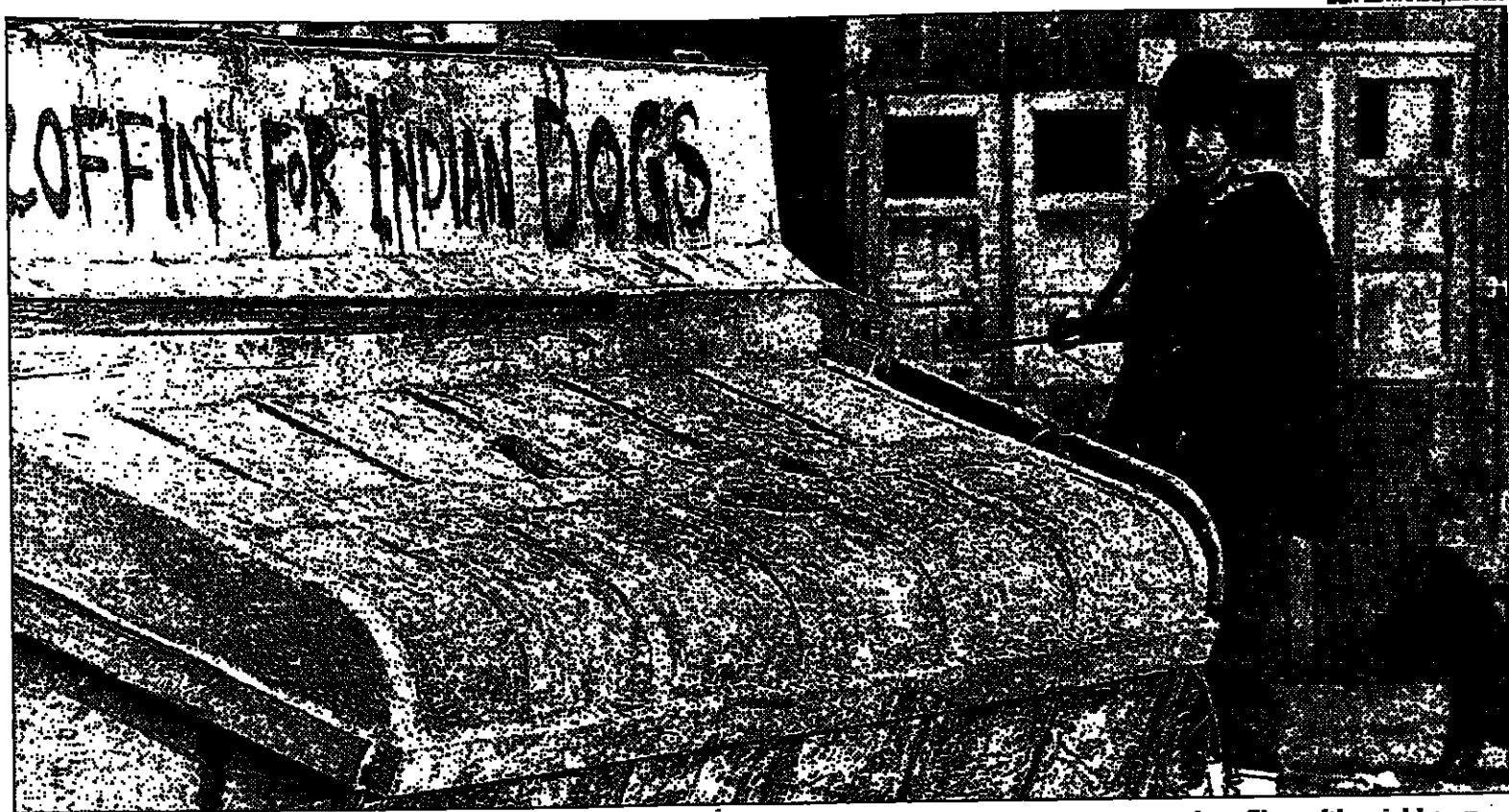


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Trouble spot: a soldier stands guard in Kashmir, where Pakistan is backing secessionists. India wants to end conflicts with neighbours.

Doors open to the West

India lost the cornerstone of its traditional foreign policy when the Soviet Union collapsed. It is now hurriedly adapting to a changed world. In doing so, it wants to end decades of chilly relations with the United States and to establish close ties with the European Community.

Moscow was Delhi's principal foreign ally and arms

Isolated by the collapse of the Soviet Union, India is seeking new allies. Christopher Thomas reports

supplier, and its loss is serious. India is now stuck with huge amounts of Soviet-made weaponry for which spares and ammunition are not available, except on the international arms black market. Many of the Indian Air

Force's combat aircraft and surface-to-air defences are affected. This has created a sense of vulnerability, particularly over Kashmir, where a Pakistani-supported secessionist uprising is severely straining resources and constantly threatens war.

India needs to find regional friends and end its reputation as a regional bully in order to focus resources where they are deemed to be most needed. The first steps have included reaching out to China and patching up a trade dispute with Nepal. The government has also authorised naval manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean with Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia, and it has agreed that its navy will co-ordinate communications equipment with the US navy, inconceivable when Delhi and Moscow were such close friends.

While Washington welcomes such changes, it is not rushing into a new relationship with India. It is willing to forget India's rejection of its many friendly overtures in the past, but at a price. It might, for example, insist on restraints in India's nuclear programme.

This is a crucial question for India, however, given that

Pakistan and China both have a nuclear capability. The Americans have advocated a regional accord on nuclear restraint along lines proposed by Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, which Delhi rejected outright.

Since independence, Delhi's foreign policy has been based primarily on a platform of anti-colonialism, anti-apartheid and non-alignment. India was once highly respected as a leading spokesman for the Third World, but domestic political instability and its confused position over the Gulf war have reduced its stature.

From an outsider's viewpoint, India has been dominated in recent years by caste wars, religious battles, secessionist strife, collapsed governments and economic problems. These perceptions have further reduced its international standing. The ministry of external affairs generally accepts that India has a diminished international role; the high moral tone of policy has given way to a practical approach based on domestic needs.

India needs international economic help, for example, which means it must swallow

its pride and curtail defence spending to satisfy organisations such as the International Monetary Fund. Delhi is acutely aware that its defence spending, which has increased in real terms in most years since independence, is out of step with world developments.

The consequent need to reduce regional tensions is one reason for its overtures to China, with which it fought a brief border war in 1962. Peking, however, is keeping its distance, and the border question remains in dispute.

The United States has indicated that it is willing to sell certain defence systems to India, but if the price is concessions from Delhi on the nuclear question, it may be too high. There are many in India who believe that sovereignty on this question is too fundamental to bargain away.

The Indians still hope, nevertheless, to supplant Pakistan as Washington's principal ally in south Asia. They have reason for optimism, since Pakistan has lost American aid over its nuclear programme, and is no longer needed as a conduit for sending American arms to the Afghan mujahedeen. Additionally, America is suspicious about Pakistan's desire for Islamic solidarity with countries such as Iran. Washington has gone out of its way to praise India's economic reforms, and it has studiously avoided strong criticism over human rights in Kashmir.

In Delhi, the external affairs ministry has taken its lead from Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, in devising practical policies for the future. India for the first time sees its interest best served by developing sound relationships with the West.

State television views new enemy in the sky

Satellite systems are shaking up broadcasting

When a satellite dish suddenly appeared on the Indian prime minister's residence during the Gulf war all talk of banning satellite television ended. The dish, tuned in to CNN, signalled a broadcasting revolution that raises unsettling questions for Doordarshan, the government-controlled television network. (Christopher Thomas writes)

The network will lose only a small proportion of its vast audience, since few can afford a dish, or even the modest cost of hooking up to satellite television by cable. There could be a significant loss of advertising revenue, however, which would deal a severe blow to an organisation strapped for funds.

Much of Doordarshan's advertising is for luxury items: perfumed soaps, washing machines and other goods that only the relatively prosperous can buy. These are the very people who are turning to satellite and cable television, leaving Doordarshan for the poor, who like soap operas.

At the same time, the arrival of foreign television has heightened criticism of the indigenous product. Newspaper television reviewers have rarely been more critical of Doordarshan, although there was high praise for its professionalism in bringing results from the general election last May and June.

The speed, accuracy and analysis of the incoming results were up to international standards. Every government routinely promises to free Doordarshan from government control, but none has. Short of money, the network shows many repeats.

Another factor in the dearth of new programmes is bureaucratic inertia. There is a large backlog of programme proposals waiting to be examined — 5,000 of them according to one account.

For all the criticism, Doordarshan has produced some highly-praised blockbusters, including *Mahabharata*, a hugely popular serial which brought much of India to a standstill once a week. Although those able to afford a set are a small minority, television reaches practically every area of the country. Scores of people squat in the dust around a communal television set in the poorest of villages.

The government has decided against legal measures to curb the satellite television invasion, arguing that the poor masses will, in any

case, never see it. Among the westernised elite, however, the impact has been enormous. BBC documentaries, are hugely popular. A package of cable-fed satellite programmes can be purchased for little more than £3 a month in Delhi.

The cultural invasion worries many. There has been criticism by MPs of MTV, the American pop video channel, which is popular among the young. Others, however, argue that India has had enough of censorship, particularly of news programmes.

Indian-made satellite dishes are selling as fast as they can be produced. In the four main cities, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, at least 350,000 households are connected to satellite television by cable. The Hong Kong-based Star television brings five channels to India, including the BBC World Service, through the ASIATAT satellite.

Proposals to allow Doordarshan to allow private operators to start regional channels and lease a channel in the main cities may not work because advertising is likely to be creamed off by foreign television.

The satellite invasion also raises questions about the future of news videos, started in recent years as an alternative to Doordarshan's censored news.

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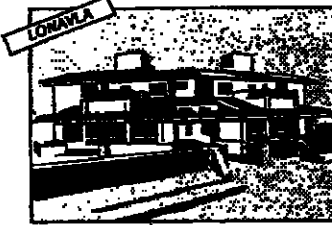
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STEFAN RICHTER

Lingering in an ancient land

India has fewer tourists than Singapore but visitors stay longer and come back. Coomi Kapoor reports on a growth area

From the snow-capped Himalayan range, in the north to the sunny tropical beaches of Kerala, the vast subcontinent of India encompasses a diversity of nature, culture, languages and architecture, ranging from ancient Hindu rock temples to medieval Muslim monuments and the colonial Gothic structures of the British Raj.

Such is the attraction of the country that 44 per cent of its tourists are repeat visitors. Nevertheless, the number of visitors about 1.32 million last year — is modest considering the country's size and the wide variety of attractions which it offers. More tourists visit tiny Singapore than India, whose share of the world's tourist traffic is less than 0.4 per cent. The silver lining is that the stay in India is longer than elsewhere, averaging almost a month.

For years, travel brochures promoted the Taj Mahal at Agra, and little else. The magnificent marble monument continues to be the strongest magnet for visitors, but there is much more to India than that. Delhi, Agra and Jaipur make up "the golden triangle", which is the most popular route. This is usually extended to include stopovers at Udaipur, the lake city in Rajasthan; Aurangabad and Bombay, the commercial centre, to the southwest. Visitors can also take the route east to Khajuraho, with its well-preserved temples; Varanasi, the holy city on the banks of the Ganges; and Kathmandu, in Nepal.

Goa, the former Portuguese territory in western India, is dotted

with churches and has well-known beach resorts. More beaches are now being "discovered", however, along the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and on the Lakshadweep islands, although the infrastructure for tourists has still not been fully developed.

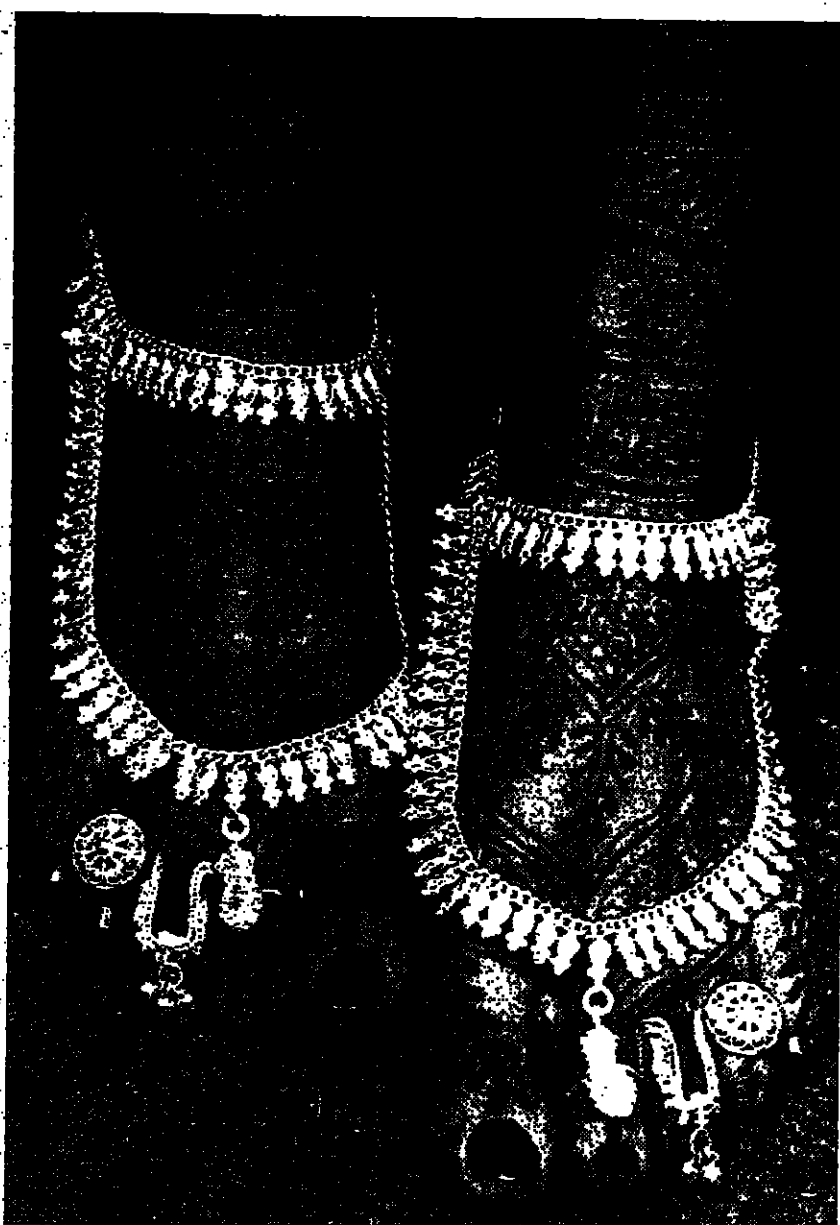
A visit to south India usually includes the ruins of the ancient Vijayanagar kingdom at Hampi, in Karnataka, Mysore, famous for its silks, sandalwood and palaces, and the rock sculptures of Mamallapuram.

The desert state of Rajasthan, in western India, has its own charm. The camel and cattle fairs are thronged by an endless mass of colourfully dressed men and women, there are fairytale palaces and forts, many of which have been converted into hotels, and the handicrafts are exquisite.

The "Palace on Wheels" excursion offers a journey through Rajasthan on a luxury train made up of the saloons of former maharajas, in which every passenger has a personal attendant.

The many wildlife sanctuaries are another tourist attraction. They are found in different parts of the country, and the visitor can see lions, tigers, elephants and rhinoceroses close up.

India has always been a shopper's paradise, and because of the favourable exchange rate, the pound goes a long way. Carpets, gems, silver ornaments, ivory, traditional paintings and silks can be picked up cheaply, so long as the visitor masters the art of bargaining and does not rely on go-betweeners.



Paintwork: the hands and feet of an Indian bride, painted using henna, according to tradition. Weddings are one of the colourful sights to be seen in India



Two troubled areas are out of bounds: Kashmir and Punjab. For those looking for substitutes for Kashmir's scenic splendour, in which the Himalayas line the horizon, Leh and Manali to the immediate east and Sikkim and Darjeeling in the northeast offer spectacular alternatives, although none is as easily accessible as Kashmir, which has a beauty all its own.

Extremist violence in India is largely restricted to the two border states, something not often understood in the West. Negative percep-

tions abroad, coupled with the Gulf war, contributed to a bad tourist season last year. However, according to O.P. Ahuja, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, "violence in India has been blown out of all proportion". Ironically, last year was designated the year of the tourist, but it did not do much for the industry.

Madhav Rao Scindia, the new minister for tourism, is confident that 1992 will be a different story. Mr Scindia is a scion of the royal house of Gwalior state, and his family was among the first to

convert one of its old palaces at Gwalior to a luxury hotel. He wants to end the red tape that intimidates many visitors.

He is also the minister of civil aviation, and a more challenging task is to ensure that Indian Airlines, the domestic carrier, which is notorious for its skewed schedules, runs its services on time.

British links with India go back a long way, which explains why British tourists outnumber those from any other country, accounting for 17.7 per cent of tourists. A journey to India requires

thoughtful planning. The month must be chosen carefully. April, May and June can be uncomfortably hot. The period from October to March is the best both because of the climate and because several colourful festivals are held then. Western visitors need time to adjust to the climate, the leisurely pace and the noisy rhythm of life in India. For some, the squalor and the smells can be unbearable. For others, this is more than compensated for by the hospitality, the colours, the varied cuisine and the ambience.

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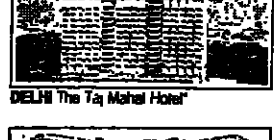
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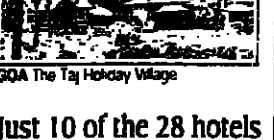
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From Dum-Dum to dumbfounded

Calcutta is a shock but has a culture all its own

The drive from Calcutta airport — which is at Dum-Dum, where the bullet of that name was invented — to the city centre is a journey through the back warrens of an amazing and terrifying place. There is no direct route. The taxi meanders through back-alley Calcutta, giving visitors a foretaste of what to expect from India's most loved and most hated metropolis (Christopher Thomas).

Calcutta is the only place in India where hand-pulled rickshaws are allowed. Attempts to ban them were greeted with furious protests by the pullers themselves. They jar their feet in potholes

during the monsoon, and collapse from fatigue in the cruel summer, but work is work, and without it in Calcutta there is only the gutter. The result is that traffic moves as fast as the slowest rickshaw, of which there are countless thousands dashing precariously through the world's greatest traffic jams. The contrast when you enter the city's air-condition-

ed five-star hotels from the chaos outside is startling. Piped music, polished floors and outrageously expensive Black Label whisky — the tipple of the elite — take the place of some of the worst poverty anywhere.

To many, Calcutta is summed up by its poverty and grime. Bengalis, however, find this offensive, and point to the other Calcutta, a city of rich culture, a long history and infinite kindness. This is the city of Rabindranath Tagore, and of many other writers from Bengal's literary heritage.

Where else are ordinary people to be found in the parks conducting impromptu readings of their poetry? In the Maidan, a great sweep of green in the city centre, men sit every day on the grass discussing politics and international affairs.

People who know Calcutta well often prefer it to Delhi and Bombay, which have subsumed their natural characters into Western styles. In Calcutta, the telephones do not work, the water out of the taps is brown, the electricity is off more often than on, and the summer climate is unbearable. But the city has retained its own distinct culture.

For all that, Calcutta is a warning to other cities, for its problems can largely be summed in one word: overpopulation. People have poured in, not just from rural West Bengal, but from the neighbouring states of Bihar and Orissa and further afield.

The city was founded by the British and was for a long time their capital, as several imposing monuments, such as the Victoria Memorial and St Paul's cathedral, show. Now, in this town long ruled by communists, the law of the jungle is the one that counts.

One reason for the poverty is that at partition in 1947 the jute mills that gave Calcutta a relative prosperity were deprived of their jute, which had come from what is now Bangladesh. The other is communism. Some of India's big industrial houses were scared away by the tactics of trade unions, backed by the state government. Both have moderated their ways.

Calcutta is acutely sensitive to foreign criticism, reflected in Calcutta's ambivalent attitude to Mother Teresa. While her good works are much applauded, many Bengalis feel that the world sees only one image of Calcutta: the slum, the leper, the dying child, the rubbish heaps, and the beggars.

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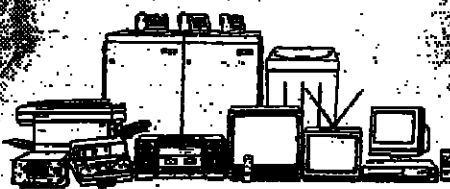
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- 7.25 News and weather (2877496)
 7.30 Crystal Tipps and Allstars: Animation (1) (4403019) 7.35 Witz Bang. Fun and games (5) (5665729) 7.45 The Jetsons. Space age cartoon series (1) (4445615)
 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker. Cheryl Baker with a hen party breakfast recipe (5) (7776922) 8.35 Thundercats. Feline cartoon adventures (1) (2395380)
 9.00 Going Live! presented by Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield. The guests include Nicola Stephenson and Clive Moore from Brookside, comedian Mickey Hutton, Emma Forbes with a feature on Caribbean cooking and Paula Denzinger reviewing books (5) (7099335) 12.12 Weather (5357670)
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of the FA Cup fourth round matches. 1.05 News. 1.25 Skating: the men's downhill from Wengen in Switzerland. 2.00 and 2.35 Basketball: Roland Kingston v Leicester Riders in the NatWest Trophy final from Birmingham. 3.00 Rugby League: Leeds v Ryedale York in the first round of the Silk Cut challenge cup. 3.50 Football: half-time scores. 4.00 Ice Skating: European figure skating championships from Lausanne, Switzerland. 4.45 Final Score (9030941)
 5.05 News and weather (1425941)
 5.15 Regional News and sport (7780583). Wales: (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday
 5.20 One To Win. Last in the series of the trivia game show hosted by Andrew O'Connor (Ceebox) (5) (7603495)
 5.50 Noel's House Party. Noel Edmonds throws the doors open for more risible fun featuring the Lyric Game, Gotcha Oscar and Grab a Grand (5) (784699)
 6.40 Big Bang. Shock and general knowledge quiz hosted by Jim Davidson with John Virgo, Neil Foulds, Tony Knowles and David Taylor help the contestants. (Ceebox) (5) (963748)
 7.10 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Take part in tonight's show by using a six-inch-square piece of thin paper. The special guests are from Japan, Fukai and the Amazing Samura (Ceebox) (5) (209903)



Guided by the stars John Mielche and Millicent Martin (7.55pm)

- 7.55 Moon and Son. Where No Birds Sing. After a bright start the astrological thriller series is showing signs of sinking into a Bergerac torpor but better luck this week as the Moons uncover a tale of recklessness and evil on a tranquil hillside in Kent. Starring Millicent Martin and John Mielche. (Ceebox) (5) (747748)
 8.50 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceebox) Sport and weather (976569)
 9.10 The Life of Consumer Affairs investigations presented by Esther Rantzen. (Ceebox) (228645)
 9.50 Midnight Caller. Old Friend. When a friend dies in one of San Francisco's respected convalescent homes, Jack Kilian (Gary Cole) discovers the fine line between mercy and murder. (5) (197477)
 10.40 Match of the Day: The Road To Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces the highlights from three FA Cup fourth round matches. Commentary by Gerald Skirrow, John Motson and Tony Gubba (708309)
 11.50 Film: Smooth Talk (1985) Laura Dern stars as a teenager who longs for independence from her strict parents but finds herself at the mercy of the enigmatic Trent Williams. A perceptive first feature on the pains of growing up by the documentary director Joyce Chopra. (Ceebox) (113125)
 12.00 News and weather (551555)

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EBC

- 7.25 News and weather (2877496)
 7.30 Crystal Tipps and Allstars: Animation (1) (4403019) 7.35 Witz Bang. Fun and games (5) (5665729) 7.45 The Jetsons. Space age cartoon series (1) (4445615)
 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker. Cheryl Baker with a hen party breakfast recipe (5) (7776922) 8.35 Thundercats. Feline cartoon adventures (1) (2395380)
 9.00 Going Live! presented by Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield. The guests include Nicola Stephenson and Clive Moore from Brookside, comedian Mickey Hutton, Emma Forbes with a feature on Caribbean cooking and Paula Denzinger reviewing books (5) (7099335) 12.12 Weather (5357670)
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of the FA Cup fourth round matches. 1.05 News. 1.25 Skating: the men's downhill from Wengen in Switzerland. 2.00 and 2.35 Basketball: Roland Kingston v Leicester Riders in the NatWest Trophy final from Birmingham. 3.00 Rugby League: Leeds v Ryedale York in the first round of the Silk Cut challenge cup. 3.50 Football: half-time scores. 4.00 Ice Skating: European figure skating championships from Lausanne, Switzerland. 4.45 Final Score (9030941)
 5.05 News and weather (1425941)
 5.15 Regional News and sport (7780583). Wales: (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday
 5.20 One To Win. Last in the series of the trivia game show hosted by Andrew O'Connor (Ceebox) (5) (7603495)
 5.50 Noel's House Party. Noel Edmonds throws the doors open for more risible fun featuring the Lyric Game, Gotcha Oscar and Grab a Grand (5) (784699)
 6.40 Big Bang. Shock and general knowledge quiz hosted by Jim Davidson with John Virgo, Neil Foulds, Tony Knowles and David Taylor help the contestants. (Ceebox) (5) (963748)
 7.10 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Take part in tonight's show by using a six-inch-square piece of thin paper. The special guests are from Japan, Fukai and the Amazing Samura (Ceebox) (5) (209903)

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CAT

Your cat is talking to you. Listen! - your cat is telling you how much she loves you. Watch! - the special friend who shares your life has so much to say to you about his feelings and needs... if only you know how to listen and what to look for. If you're a cat lover like me, and wish to better communicate with your pet for deeper, more loving relationship, then you'll want to find out HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CAT. Remember - there's a lot more cat talk than 'Meow'.

In fact... there are nineteen different ways cats say 'meow'. And each has its own special meaning! Cats also talk in body language - with their ears, whiskers, eyes and tail... with their poses and movements! YOUR TALKING CAT shows you how to talk to your cat, how to interpret your cat's meows, facial expressions and often intricate body language and answers at last fascinating mysteries of feline behavior such as:

- Why your cat rubs you to show affection... and how best to show her yours.
- Why your cat circles in your lap before settling down.
- Why your cat always seems to come over when you're reading or doing paperwork... and the ultimate toy to distract him.
- Why your cat doesn't like to be stared at.
- What kinds of toys and games your cat likes best. And there is also a 'Cat Talk' Chart translating your cat's language so you'll know when your pet is happy, and illustrated charts of feline facial expressions and tail positions that reveal the range of your cat's moods and feelings. You may be surprised to discover the warmth and strength of the bonds of affection between you and your cat once you understand her unique language of communication... when you learn the secret of HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CAT. Order your copy of YOUR TALKING CAT today - now, using the handy coupon below:

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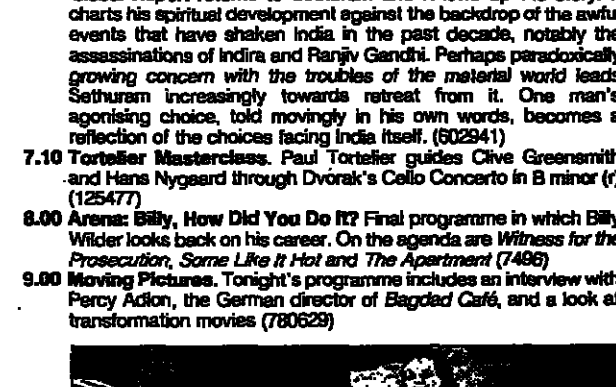
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EBC

- 8.45 Open University (1289303)
 11.05 Fd Like to Teach the World to Sing. Last programme in the series about the music of the 1960s (1) (9448106)
 11.45 Just Another Day. John Pinner visits Waterloo station in London. Europe's busiest railway terminus (1) (443300)
 12.15 Film: Room Service (1938, b/w) Lucille Ball and Ann Miller star in a lesser Marx Brothers comedy about a bankrupt stage manager who attempts to put on a play without any money. Directed by William A. Seiter (702187)
 1.30 Piano Lessons. A teenager is given a piano for his birthday and discovers that it has an appetite (3923630)
 1.45 Heirs and Graces. Lady Victoria Leatham visits Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, home of the Marquesses and Marchionesses of Salisbury (1) (726970)
 2.15 Network East. Shyma Perera celebrates the work of Asian photographers. Last in the series (1) (715551)
 2.45 Matchmaking. Episode 8 of the Indian epic. In Hindi with English subtitles (2395748)
 3.25 Animation Now. August - a clay animation from Hungary (4520222)
 3.35 Film: Witness for the Prosecution (1958, b/w) starring Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power and Marlene Dietrich. High octane courtroom drama based on the Agatha Christie play, with flamboyant performances by Dietrich as the wife of the charged killer and Laughton as the defence lawyer. Directed by Billy Wilder (571854)
 5.30 Late Again. Highlights from the week's The Late Show (5) (762233)
 6.15 News with Moira Stuart. Sport and weather
 6.30 Global Report
 ● CHOICE: Faithful viewers of the BBC Everyman series may recall an edition of 1994 featuring a BBC newspaper editor, R.L. Setnam. He was on the point of retiring and giving up his work and family for the contentment of a simple life in a quiet village. He decided that he was not ready but was convinced that one day he would take the path of Sarny and not look back. Global Report returns to Setnam and follows up the story. It charts his spiritual development against the backdrop of the awful events that have shaken India in the past decade, notably the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. A growing concern with the troubles of the material world leads Setnam increasingly towards retreat from it. One man's agonising choice, told movingly in his own words, becomes a reflection of the choices facing India itself. (602941)
 7.10 Tortoise Masterclass. Paul Tortoise guides Clive Greenwith and Hilda Nygaard through Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor (1) (125477)
 8.00 Aretha. Billy. How Did You Do It? Final programme in which Billy Wilder looks back on his career. On the agenda are Witness for the Prosecution, Some Like It Hot and The Apartment (7486)
 9.00 Moving Pictures. Tonight's programme includes an interview with Percy Adlon, the German director of Bagdad Café, and a look at transformation movies (780523)



Artistic designs on a curvaceous figure: Jack Palanca (9.50pm)

- 9.50 Film: Bagdad Café (1988)
 ● CHOICE: Channel 4 viewers will know Bagdad Café as an assembly line sitcom about two women in a desert diner. But as usual the spin-off series is a far cry from the original. A hilarious film by the German director Percy Adlon. Marlene Dietrich plays an empty but Bavarian dumpy by her husband in the Arizona desert. Left with nothing but her husband's suitcase she seeks refuge in the Bagdad Café, a shabby motel and gas station owned by a black woman (C.J.H. Funder) whose marriage has also run into trouble. The film is not quite the feminist tract that the summary might suggest but it is a sensitive study of two abandoned women making the best of life. The other plot strand is deliciously provided by the veteran Jack Palanca, as a Hollywood set designer who is so inspired by the German visitor's curvaceous figure that he becomes determined to paint it in the buff. (Ceebox) (552477)
 11.20 Film: Ace in the Hole (b/w, 1951). Billy Wilder at his cynical best. A reporter (Paul Douglas) is sent to investigate a mining tragedy for the scoop that will revive his career. (Ceebox) (368306). Ends at 11.55pm

SKY SPORTS
 ● Via the Astra and Marquillo satellites.
 8.30am Aerobics (12325) 9.00 The American Football League (12325) 9.30 The American Football League (12325) 10.00 The American Football League (12325) 10.30 The American Football League (12325) 11.00 The American Football League (12325) 11.30 The American Football League (12325) 12.00 The American Football League (12325) 12.30 The American Football League (12325) 1.00 The American Football League (12325) 1.30 The American Football League (12325) 2.00 The American Football League (12325) 2.30 The American Football League (12325) 3.00 The American Football League (12325) 3.30 The American Football League (12325) 4.00 The American Football League (12325) 4.30 The American Football League (12325) 5.00 The American Football League (12325) 5.30 The American Football League (12325) 6.00 The American Football League (12325) 6.30 The American Football League (12325) 7.00 The American Football League (12325) 7.30 The American Football League (12325) 8.00 The American Football League (12325) 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7.20 Film: 'Tomb Raider' (1991) b/w starring Johnny Depp. The jungle hero tangles with an expedition looking for Amazon gold. Directed by Richard Donner (50/50/50).

8.40 The Four Great Seasons David Bellamy's series on the effect of the elements on the plants of the north of England (47/47/47).

9.10 News and weather (9.15) 9.15 Getting Through. A portrait of Nicholas Postlethwaite who has worked with the young of Torrefield, Liverpool, for the last 20 years (77/20/77) 9.30 This is the Day. A visit to a Christian nursery school in Stockport (15/20/15).

10.00 Sea Heat Magazine series for the hearing impaired (71/42). Wales: Into Print 10.30 Debut of German-born for-beginners (18/34/2). Wales: Skidoo 10.55 Advice Show Extra! Consumer advice from Helen Madden (74/00/39).

11.00 The Training Hour beginning with 'Info Print'. Eye-catching graphics (11/52). Wales: (to 12.30) See You Sunday 11.30. Bizarre. Advice on jobs and training (9/88/1).

12.00 Bazaar News. Hughes with fashion, cooking and gardening advice (9/11/33). 12.25 Experience. How to make an electric motor (55/59/77).

12.30 Country File Rural issues examined by John Craven (53/76/59). Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather (72/76/59).

1.00 News (1.05) followed by *On the Record*. The shadow leader of the House of Commons, Douglas Hogg, with Jonathan Dimbleby. The Labour party's commitment to electoral reform (20/22/22). 2.00 Eastenders (2/71/71).

3.00 Match of the Day - The Road to Wembley Desmond Lynam introduces five coverage of the FA Cup fourth round match between Wolves and Everton at Stamford Bridge (16/39/76).

5.05 The Clothes Show The Princess Royal, as president of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, presents this year's awards to companies who have achieved success overseas (4/76/42/3).

5.30 Antiques Roadshow Hugh Sauty and the team of experts visit Enniskillen. (Cashew) (13/9/77).

6.15 Lifeline An appeal by actor Tom Conti on behalf of the Howard League for Penal Reform. (Cashew) (9/11/33).

6.25 News with Chris Lowe (Weather (57/77/5).

6.40 Songs of Praise from Skewness where the Salvation Army is holding a 'Fellowship Week' (31/13/3).

7.15 'Allot' 'Allot' It is Renda's birthday and among the surprises are a car, a house, a job and a bomb from the Resistance. (Cashew) (5/53/3).

7.45 Loveloy The roughie antique dealer, still madly in love, is persuaded to go selling and decides to pop the question. Starring Ian McShane and Joanne Lumley. (Cashew) (5/41/02/2).



Lost-love romance: Geoffrey Palmer and Judi Dench (8.35pm)

8.35 As Time Goes By Likeable romantic comedy starring Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer as former lovers who meet again after 38 years and wonder if they have enough in common to re-kindle the romance. (Cashew) (5/54/40/4).

9.10 A Time to Dance The final episode of Melvyn Bragg's controversial adaptation of his novel about the life and death of the Lake District. Starring Ronald Pickup and David Kirwan (43/48/1).

10.05 News with Martyn Lewis (Cashew) (Weather (50/36/8)).

10.20 Everyman: Entertaining Angels CHOICE: A report from Leeds takes its text from Hebrews: 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares'. The subject of this film would not claim to be angels, though this could be a fair description of those who entertain them. Nighttop is an ecumenical church-based initiative to help the young homeless. Families offer these young people an evening meal and a bed for the night. Sadly, there is no lack of customers. The film focuses on two. One was abused at home and ran away from care. The other is the victim of his parents' broken marriage. No one knows better than the people who run it that Nighttop is only offering a place, not a home, temporarily covering the wound in the hope of longer-term treatment. But it is a vicious circle. Because the youngsters have no homes, they cannot get jobs. Without a job they cannot afford a place of their own. (Cashew) (33/70/5).

11.00 The Nobel Century The final programme on the series tracing the history of the Nobel prizes (5/11/77).

11.50 Matchweek 1 (7/02/55) 12.30am Weather (53/41/55).

7.25 Best First This on 2 Children's programmes beginning with Hello Spencer (7/05/50/21) 7.45 Playdays (7/05/50/21) 8.05 Two By Two. The wildlife of Sherwood Forest (7/05/50/21) 8.20 Babar. Adventures of a young elephant (7/05/50/21) 8.45 Telling Tales. Ancient stories with a modern message (7/05/50/21) 9.00 The Legend of Prince Valiant. Fantasy adventures of a Viking prince (7/05/50/21) 9.25 Blue Peter Omnibus (4/05/50/21) 10.15 Defenders of the Earth. Cartoon (7/05/50/21) 10.40 Strangers. Drama series (7/05/50/21) 11.05 Boxpops. A look at holidays (8/43/77/8) 11.48 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (7/07/43/5).

12.00 Regional Westminster Programmes (1925). Northern Ireland: Greenpeace. Wales: Scrutiny.

12.30 Film: Five Graves to Cairo (1943) starring Franchot Tone and Anne Baxter. The Billy Wilder series continues with his polished second world war drama set in north Africa. Tone plays the survivor of a British tank crew and there is a screen-stealing performance by Erich von Stroheim as Rommel (55/40/30).

2.05 European Figure Skating Championships. The medal-winning performances from the past week's competition (50/18/5).

3.00 Film: Battleground Galactica (1979) starring Lorne Greene. In television's answer to Star Wars the survivors of an attack by the Cycloids gather on board the remaining battleship and go in search of their home planet, Earth. Directed by Richard A. Colla (72/51/1).

5.00 Rugby Special Highlights of the Pilkington Cup fourth round games between Wasps and Harlequins and Northampton v Bath (91/32). Wales: Mountain Ash v Llanelli and Penarth v Cardiff 5.00 Saturday. The men's downhill from Wengen, Switzerland (53/42/2).

8.35 The Money Programme Made in Britain. Janet Bush's report on the state of British industry, based on a specially-commissioned paper from the London Business School (14/03/0).

7.15 Prisoners of the Sun. The second of a three-part exploration of the forces that control life on earth. (Cashew) (57/14/0).

8.05 The British Home (50/52/5).

8.35 Tying Ties Get a job. Another tale of Angst from modern-day America (42/08/4).

8.25 Did You See...? presented by Jeremy Paxman. Crime writer Mike Phillips reviews Channel 4's 297 Club; Edwina Currie, MP, compares a holiday with Wish You Were Here... and comedian Tony Slattery comments on BBC's 40 Minutes programme The Wild Man (54/33/5).



A make-believe world: Anthony Hill, Nigel Hawthorne (10.05pm)

10.05 Film: Billy Bates (1992). CHOICE: Barely recognizable with his thick moustache and east European accent, Nigel Hawthorne gives a beautifully judged performance as an old Polish exile who makes an unlikely friendship with a 12-year-old boy. The lad is fascinated by the flea circus which the old man used to perform to children in a wartime concentration camp. Stephen Lowe's screenplay discreetly draws the parallels between the two characters, lonely and abandoned people both inhabiting a world of make-believe as they try to come to terms with an unhappy past. A potentially sombre theme is treated with warmth and humour without descending into sentimentality. As the boy, Anthony Hill proves yet again that it is possible for a youngster with no television experience to hold his own with the best. The director is Alan Denton, whose previous credits include Michael Frey's superb *First and Last*. (Cashew) (5/34/6/5).

11.45 Film: Buddy, Buddy (1981). The last in the Billy Wilder series is a black comedy about a mobster's hit man whose efforts to kill are constantly hampered by a would-be suicide. Variable fare, despite the usual reliable performances from Wilder's favourite actors, Lee Remick and Walter Matthau (79/57/8).

1.15 Rapido Music magazine (7/05/4/5).

6.00 TV-am (62/55/10) 9.25 Disney Club (58/70/4) 10.45 Link. The role of the RNIB (20/78/8).

11.00 Morning Worship from the Holy Family and St Nini's Roman Catholic church, Kirkcaldy (51/52).

12.00 Encounter. The world and pressures on careers (62/52).

12.30 LWT News Weekend (63/43/55) 12.55 LWT Weather (72/46/07) 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen Weather (51/41/53).

1.15 Special Inquiry Footing the bill. Are Britain's police forces too inefficiently organised and managed to do a proper job of fighting crime? (28/87/75).

2.15 Sharp's Sunday. Pat Sharp presents an episode of *Batman* (18/71/3) and, at 2.45 *WCW Wrestling* (41/36/25).

2.55 Film: The Day After Tomorrow (18/57/8).

3.25 Film: The Day After Tomorrow (18/57/8). Joseph Cotton and George Kennedy. Formula disaster movie about a hijacked airplane loaded with art treasures that collides with an oil rig in the ice. Directed by Jerry Jameson (18/03/81).

5.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game (62/5).

5.00 Animal Country. Desmond Morris and Sarah Greene meet an unusual heady (52/5).

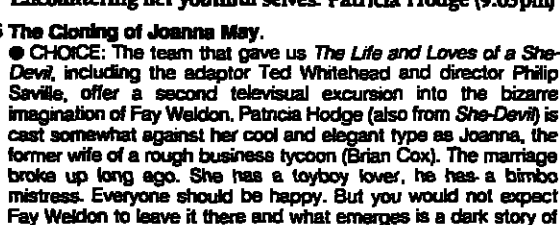
5.30 News with Nicholas Owen (Weather (15/55/1) 8.35 LWT News and weather (15/46/2).

8.40 Highway. Sir Harry Scobie visits the Isle of Wight (30/22/1).

7.15 You've Been Framed Jeremy Beadle with another selection of comedy disasters (52/36/2).

7.45 The Darling Buds of May. The first of a new series of the rustic comedy drama based on the novels by H.E. Bates. Starring David Jason, Pam Ferris and Catherine Zeta-Jones. (Oracle) (5/10/84).

8.45 News with Nicholas Owen (Weather (70/28/9) 9.00 LWT Weather (46/88/1).



Encountering her youthful selves: Patricia Hodge (9.05pm)

9.05 The Cloning of Joanna May CHOICE: The team that gave us *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, including the adaptor Ted Whitehead and director Philip Saville, offer a second television excursion into the bizarre imagination of Fay Weldon. Patricia Hodge (also from *She-Devil*) is cast somewhat against her cool and elegant type as Joanna, the former wife of a rough business tycoon (Brian Cox). The marriage broke up long ago. She has a toyboy lover, he has a bimbo mistress. Everyone should be happy. But you would not expect Fay Weldon to leave it there and what emerges is a dark story of passion and murder. At its heart is Joanna's discovery that her ex has made three youthful clones of her so that he can relive his past love. It is a series likely to divide the public. Some will applaud the boldness of the theme and the relish with which it is explored. Others may feel that the tale is dirty beyond belief and nasty with it. (Oracle) (25/88/51).

10.35 The South Bank Show: Cecilia Bartoli CHOICE: Introduced by Melvyn Bragg as 'the most head-spinning young talent to arrive on the opera scene for years', Cecilia Bartoli is a 25-year-old mezzo-soprano with the music world apparently at her feet. David Thomas's profile takes the cameras to her home city of Rome, to Venice for a recording session and to the Savoy Hotel in London for a recital. Born in a trunk, at least in a theatrical laundry basket, Bartoli started with the advantages of parents who were both singers and an immense network of contacts. She has a mother who is a pianist and the programme uses this as an oblique peg to the composer's bicentenary which falls this year. At the same time Bartoli has shown an acute sensitivity for Mozart. Everyone in the show says very nice things about her, while acknowledging that only the next decade will tell (5/21/33).

11.35 Hooked. A new soap series on drugs in the 1980s (54/93/5).

12.00 Film: The Day After Tomorrow (18/57/8). (Cashew) (5/34/6/5).

1.10 The ITV Chart Show (7/05) (5/24/02/7).

2.05 Film: Fragment of Fear (1970) starring David Hemmings. Modish, enigmatic thriller about a writer investigating the murder of his aunt in Italy. Directed by Richard C. Sarafian (58/80/2) 3.50 Pick of the Week (7/14/54/92/7).

4.20 National News (50/11/4). Ends at 6.00.

6.00 Trans World Sport Sporting news and features (7/27/4) 7.00 Eureka's Castle. Cartoon and music for the under-fives (38/38/2).

7.30 Star Street Children's drama series (82/04/6) 8.00 The Wild Bunch. Feline puppet series (97/31/7) 8.30 Ramona (7/22/5/51) 8.55 Little Rascals. Animation (5/67/03/3).

9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan Indian drama series. In Hindi with English subtitles (58/40/55).

10.00 Dispatches. A report of Wednesday's programme which reported on the plight of the thousands of homeless children on the streets of St Petersburg growing up deprived of family life or parental influence (57/11/88).

10.45 Dennis. Animated adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends (18/73/7).

11.05 Round the Bend. Puppets and cartoons (7/05/29/7).

11.30 Dinosauria. In the Pink. Stacey, an albino girl, is bullied at school - until she discovers a talent for swimming (7/14/52/51).

12.00 Little House on the Prairie. Drama series about family life on the Kansas plains during the 1880s (7/21/82).

1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Classic underwater adventure series starring Richard Basehart as the commander of a remarkable submarine (30/51/0).

2.00 Film: A Man for All Seasons (1956) starring Paul Scofield in his Oscar-winning role as Sir Thomas More, Wendy Hiller, Leo McKern and Robert Shaw. Impeccably crafted career drama of Robert Bolt's play about the battle of wills between More and Henry VIII. Directed by Fred Zinnemann (83/50/59/5).

4.15 Cabaret. Animation (14/88/97).

4.25 Valued Opinion. In the third of his series on antiques collecting Max Robertson looks at miniatures in the company of Richard Allen of Sotheby's (44/05/35).

4.55 News and weather (83/15/26).

5.00 Scottish Eye: The Tax Trap. A report on how small businesses throughout Scotland are being forced into liquidation because of over-zealous tax inspectors (67/13).

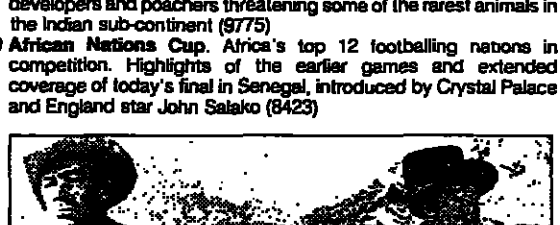
5.30 Dig. Unorthodox gardening series presented by Carolyn Marshall (7/05/25).

6.00 Teenage Health Freak. Comedy series along the lines of *The Diary of Adrian Mole* dealing with adolescent anguish (58/1).

6.30 The Wonder Years. Award winning comedy series about growing up in the United States during the late 1960s (7/15/13).

7.00 Defenders of the Wild: Rangers of Nepal. The last in the series on efforts to save endangered wilderness areas. This programme focuses on a team of park rangers in the Bardia National Park of western Nepal that has successfully waged a war against developers and poachers threatening some of the rarest animals in the Indian sub-continent (77/5).

8.00 African Nations Cup. Africa's top 12 footballing nations in the competition. Highlights of the games and the extended coverage of today's final in Senegal. Introduced by Crystal Palace and England star John Salako (9/23).



Proud in the saddle: Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea (9.00pm)

9.00 Film: Ride the High Country (1952) starring Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea. Sam Peckinpah's fine, elegant western about two ageing former lawmen who sign on to escort gold from a remote mining camp to the bank and meet trouble along the way. Excellent performances from the veteran stars in their last important screen roles (59/07/35).

10.45 American Football - Super Bowl XXVI. Live coverage of the game at the Minneapolis Metrodome between the Washington Redskins and the Buffalo Bills (73/35/152). Ends at 2.45am approximately.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm *Goat Gals* (58/23/33). 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (57/40/22). 1.05-1.10 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 1.15-1.20 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 1.25-1.30 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 1.35-1.40 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 1.45-1.50 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 1.55-2.00 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.05-2.10 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.15-2.20 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.25-2.30 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.35-2.40 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.45-2.50 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 2.55-3.00 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.05-3.10 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.15-3.20 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.25-3.30 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.35-3.40 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.45-3.50 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 3.55-4.00 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.05-4.10 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.15-4.20 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.25-4.30 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.35-4.40 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.45-4.50 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 4.55-5.00 *Anglia Today* (57/40/22). 5.05-5.10 *Anglia 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Airlines fly into cut-price publicity war

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE traditional winter competition between airline marketing men for the "fares cut" promotion which will win the biggest headline in popular newspapers is nearing its climax.

Leading the way is Richard Branson, whose Virgin Atlantic is selling single tickets to New York for just £99. The trouble is that those tickets have to be bought 24 hours before travel; there is a limited market for such instant travel decisions, and few have been sold.

As Mr Branson trumpeted his triumph in bringing down fares, big airlines on the Atlantic routes, especially British Airways, American and United, did nothing, apparently refusing to be drawn into any such undignified scuffle for publicity. Last

week, however, American came up with its own scheme. Called a "pre-election fly-away" offer, it meant some fares cut by up to 50 per cent, with a New York return costing £229.

Suddenly they were tipped to win the "crown" for most useable copy — until, that is, it was realised that the fares had to be booked seven days in advance, had to take place in midweek, include a Saturday night stopover, the maximum stay was 21 days, the tickets had to be purchased by March 15 and all travel completed by April 12.

The industry began to sit up a little, however. American, the biggest airline, now has 21 per cent of flights between Britain and the United States, compared with BA's 37 per cent, United's 11 per cent and Virgin's 7.5 per cent. United and BA matched the offer, with United cutting New York to £199 return.

Back came Mr Branson to claim that he had triggered all this and his only goal was philanthropy towards the travelling public — a claim dismissed by his rivals.

Meanwhile, American and United were reporting record losses in the last quarter and the last thing they needed was a price war to push fares lower. They needed instead to raise prices. So did BA.

Christopher Chataway, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, who must give approval for lower fares, to be offered in the first place, wants to ensure that all customers have a basic fare to which they can relate and which would provide the on-demand traveller with reasonable facilities and a reasonable chance of obtaining a ticket without unnecessary restrictions.

"Where that basic fare exists, we believe that the airline should have complete pricing freedom for all its other fares," he said.

Tories stay step ahead

Continued from page 1

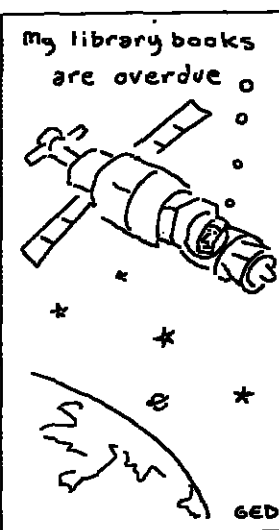
their opponents' taxation and spending plans. There was no respite from electioneering last night. Neil Kinnock said that the people were looking for a Budget to help the country, not to bail out the Tory party. A penny tax cut would have nothing to do with Britain's well-being.

Roy Hattersley, his deputy, said that John Major would "cut and run the day after the Budget". John Wakeham, the cabinet's publicity chief, said that the economic news was slowly and surely growing brighter by the day. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said the choice between Tory and Labour was between a "low-tax, lightly regulated enterprise economy, or a high-tax, highly regulated" one.

Leasehold change, page 2
Letters, page 13



Trabant trendy: garage owner Bob Beauchamp at his Birmingham garage with some of the 17 secondhand Trabants he has imported from east Germany and hopes to sell for £900 each. He hopes to convince customers that, despite the car's reputation for being noisy, smelly and slow, it offers transport that is rustproof, almost maintenance-free and, not needing anti-freeze, ideal in winter



Stranded spaceman waits for rocket home

Continued from page 1

factories that build the Zenit, Cyclon and Cosmos boosters. It is also uncertain what the signatory republics would consider a "diminution" of the programme. Civil space spending was shaved by 10 per cent in 1990 to 6.3 billion roubles, and has since been frozen. But inflation is running at about 100 per cent, and launches last year were down to 1986 levels, at around 50, or half the levels of the 1980s.

News of the stranded cos-

monaut comes as President Bush announced an increase in funding for Freedom, the American manned space station programme. In a speech to the Young Astronauts Council, he said that some funds would also be spent on putting robots on the Moon in preparation for people living there, as well as on a planned hypersonic transport plane. He also reaffirmed a commitment to send people to Mars in the next century.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's

\$14.3 billion budget will increase modestly under Mr Bush's 1993 budget proposal, to be unveiled next week.

The Freedom project, which intends to launch a permanent orbiting platform by 1996, will receive \$2.25 billion, an 11 per cent increase over 1992. The project survived attempts made in Congress last year to end its funding.

Mr Bush's proposal will keep to the target of astronauts working in the station by 1997 and of permanent

occupation by 2000. His budget will also contain funding for some priorities of the National Space Council, chaired by Vice-President Dan Quayle.

Those include money for the programme to put robots on the Moon, to precede the astronauts who will eventually live and work there. American astronauts last visited the Moon during the early 1970s in the Apollo programme.

Austerity budget, page 11
Planet X, Saturday Review

Cannibal with a taste for whisky

Continued from page 1

strong healthy bodies, I'm essentially a romantic."

He still likes to do nude paintings of young Western women. One of them was a young Dutch model, Ingrid, whom he contacted, he said, when he saw her photograph in a magazine. She has now returned to The Netherlands and never knew his real name or anything of his history.

Mr Sagawa likes to dwell openly and almost proudly on his past. "My fantasy of cannibalism is not crazy. Everyone has fantasies. The special thing about me is that I acted upon mine. At the time I was not well, and it became an obsession, a kind of duty. I regret it terribly." One of the most distressing aspects of this solitary man is the fact that he believes he is normal. "My time in the mental ward was like hell. Everyone else in there was 'crazy', but the doctors saw that I was not like them, that I was cured. I am normal. I eat an evening meal with my parents every day and spend my spare time painting and writing."

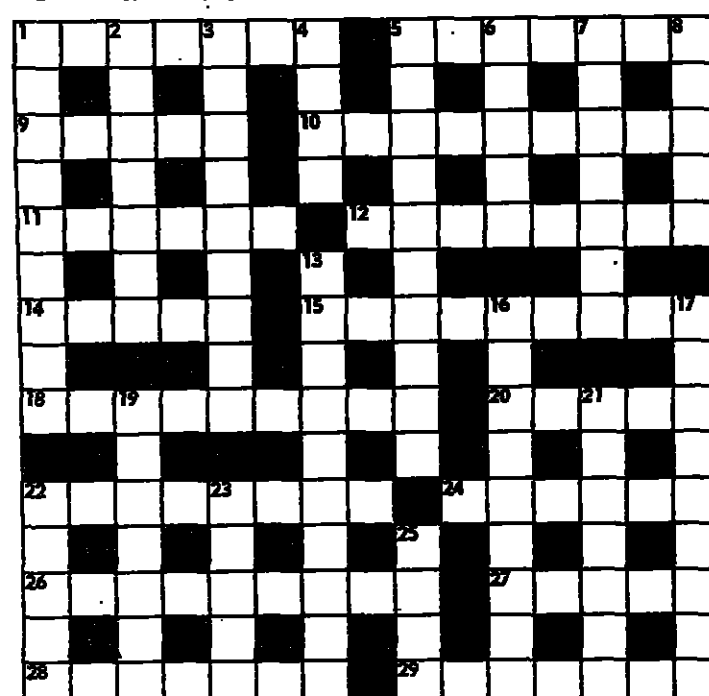
Judging by his disturbingly carnal paintings, Mr Sagawa shows no inclination to rid himself of his dangerous passion. "Cannibalism has been my obsession since I was very young. It is a pleasure lying deep in the human spirit... my long cherished desire is to be eaten by a beautiful Western woman," he wrote in an article two months ago.

While in prison in France he wrote his "memoirs", recalling the sensations of cooking and eating the body parts — some "deliciously fatty like raw tuna", some rubbery, and some fried with salt, pepper and mustard.

The book has become a best-seller in Japan and has encouraged Mr Sagawa to write three more, one of which is an anthology of short stories on the theme of cannibalistic fantasies.

That book is a little bit comical," he said, with a strange, leering grimace. It was time to leave.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,824



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- SOCA
a. A mother-in-law
b. A Talmudic category
c. Society of Chartered Accountants
- AGILA
a. Eaglewood
b. A Roman legion's standard
c. A boxer's pass
- ESTRO
a. An Alpine east wind
b. Poetic inspiration
c. The Pyrenean eagle
- ULE
a. Central American rubber tree
b. Icelandic Christmas
c. A ragged wound

Answers on page 15

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

- Greater London... 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex... 702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW... 703
Devon & Cornwall... 704
Wales, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex... 705
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex... 706
Beds, Herts & Essex... 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex... 708
West Midlands & Shropshire & Herefordshire... 709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcester... 710
Central Midlands... 711
East Midlands... 712
Lincoln & Humberside... 713
Dyfed & Powys... 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd... 715
N.W. England... 716
W & S. Yorks & Dales... 717
N.E. England... 718
Cumbria & Lancashire... 719
S.W. Scotland... 720
W. Central Scotland... 721
Edinburgh & Borders... 722
Central Scotland... 723
Glasgow & E. Highlands... 724
N.W. Scotland... 725
Glasgow, Orkney & Shetland... 726
N. Ireland... 727

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London & SE
C. London (within N & S Cycles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
Dumfries & Galloway M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
- National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

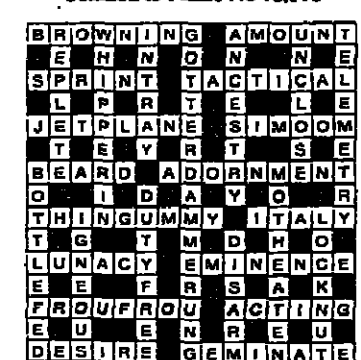
AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 15

ACROSS

- Spartan digging up treasure runs away (7).
- Laud's collapse (5,2).
- Marble head (5).
- When fighting stops, it's a crime to get involved (9).
- Stand and fasten on informal shirt (6).
- Started article, having had a meal brought round (8).
- In leader's absence, opposed to anything at all (5).
- Children on the team can be a distraction (4-5).
- Penny officer, in some way unsurpassed (5-4).
- Liking to be conspicuous (5).
- Turning, zigzags around muddy racetrack (8).
- Bird was finished on plate (6).
- Ten venial errors made by saint (9).
- Poor girl's origin is her affair (5).
- He disposes of bin ends (7).
- Renounce a fine game (7).

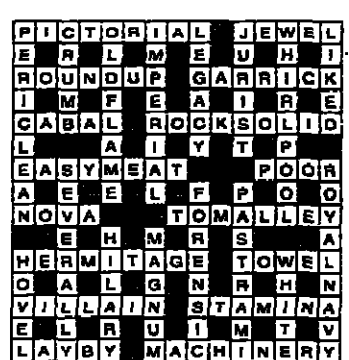
Solution to Puzzle No 18,818



DOWN

- The winner's shooting is thought lethal, in the main (9).
- Arch-fiend near to death? (7).
- Basic metal, perhaps, and its symbol (9).
- Afternoon paper? (4).
- Requisition grazing-land, say, to give to herd (10).
- Criminal act started by a strike, maybe (5).
- Men with horses' heads (7).
- Quietly raising subscriptions is not honest (5).
- Eliza's goal? (10).
- Provincial about to make rubber, say (9).
- Observe vivid flower (9).
- Classical painter's copy, to sell mounted (7).
- Letter of advice to a novice, one in a new order (7).
- Rescued from danger, but died (5).
- Material excavated is rising (5).
- Made a final offer, unmoved (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,823



PARKER DUOFOLD
A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Tuesday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address:

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A Magnus, Manor Road, Bournemouth, Hants; A McArthur, Dinorben Close, Fleet, Hants; H H Morgan, Highcroft, Capheaton, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glam; M Flock, Percival Road, Rugby, Warks; M Lorford, Duke Street, Hinton, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Scotland will start cloudy with some rain and snow over the hills. The rain will edge into Northern Ireland, northern England and Wales, but most will die out before reaching southern parts of England. As the rain moves south, drier, clearer and colder weather will spread into northern Scotland. Another cold day in the South but northern areas will be relatively mild. Outlook some rain and drizzle in the North-West otherwise dry and cloudy.

MIDDAY: 1-1000m; 11-1500m; 16-1800m; 19-2000m; 21-2200m; 23-2400m; 25-2600m; 27-2800m; 29-3000m; 31-3200m; 33-3400m; 35-3600m; 37-3800m; 39-4000m; 41-4200m; 43-4400m; 45-4600m; 47-4800m; 49-5000m; 51-5200m; 53-5400m; 55-5600m; 57-5800m; 59-6000m; 61-6200m; 63-6400m; 65-6600m; 67-6800m; 69-7000m; 71-7200m; 73-7400m; 75-7600m; 77-7800m; 79-8000m; 81-8200m; 83-8400m; 85-8600m; 87-8800m; 89-9000m; 91-9200m; 93-9400m; 95-9600m; 97-9800m; 99-10000m; 101-10200m; 103-10400m; 105-10600m; 107-10800m; 109-11000m; 111-11200m; 113-11400m; 115-11600m; 117-11800m; 119-12000m; 121-12200m; 123-12400m; 125-12600m; 127-12800m; 129-13000m; 131-13200m; 133-13400m; 135-13600m; 137-13800m; 139-14000m; 141-14200m; 143-14400m; 145-14600m; 147-14800m; 149-15000m; 151-15200m; 153-15400m; 155-15600m; 157-15800m; 159-16000m; 161-16200m; 163-16400m; 165-16600m; 167-16800m; 169-17000m; 171-17200m; 173-17400m; 175-17600m; 177-17800m; 179-18000m; 181-18200m; 183-18400m; 185-18600m; 187-18800m; 189-19000m; 191-19200m; 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THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

BUSINESS NEWS 23-31,38
FOCUS: PEPS 32-37
SPORT 39-44

Profile
Peter Jacobs, the chief executive of Bupa, has shown the door to anyone lacking skills and drive in an organisation that hopes to come back from overall losses of £42 million in 1990 to break-even point in 1991. Those who remain are on first-name terms. He considers it artificial to address people more formally. Page 25



Peps special
A special report on personal equity plans looks at the impact of single company Peps, examines the future of European Peps and highlights some of the winners and losers. Pages 32 to 37

Bank in line
National Westminster is the first bank to cut its mortgage rate. Its standard rate has fallen from 11.55 to 10.99 per cent, in line with the new rates from most large building societies. Page 29

Helping hand
Only one in seven people in debt has access to debt counselling services, may be speaking to Fenella Kemp of Europ Assistance, but funding for debt counselling services has reached a critical point. Money from the private sector is not forthcoming. The Money Advice Trust, set up to channel private sector funds to Citizens Advice Bureaux and money advice centres, says its future could be threatened if there are no funds. Page 27



Lack of interest
The Nationwide has been told by the building societies ombudsman to pay compensation to an investor whose account became obsolete. There are still thousands of such accounts. Page 28

Photo cards
TSB is experimenting with credit cards carrying a photograph of the holder to try to combat card fraud. But some industry experts say that photographs will be no good. Page 29

Buyer beware
Pensions salesmen are persuading job changers to use the transfer value of a company pension to fund a personal pension. It is often better to leave the pension where it is. Page 31

Pressure for low mortgage rates 'to blame'

Halifax to levy charges on savings accounts

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HALIFAX Building Society is to impose charges on investors who let their savings accounts fall below £50 for long periods and on customers with less than £250 in their accounts who make more than two counter withdrawals a month. For the first time, a building society has decided to levy charges on savings accounts, and the move is bound to spark a reaction throughout the market. But there was no indication last night that other building societies would follow suit. The Halifax, the largest society with 13.6 million savers, will introduce the charges from February 1. From today, all 700 branches will have explanatory brochures and posters. The charges will be applied to the paid-up share account, cardcash, instant xtra plus, instant xtra, deposit, monthly savings, matured subscription share and subscription share accounts. Its Maxis current account and those held by savers under 21 are exempted. Those savers who let their balances fall below £50 for a total of 30 days in each financial quarter will be charged £2.50 a quarter. Customers who have balances below £250 will be charged 60p for the third and subsequent cash withdrawals over the counter each month. Cheques issued by branches will be charged at £1. There will be no charges for receipts, standing orders, direct debits, account transfers or cash machine withdrawals. The brochure explains: "It is only fair that where additional costs arise, from customers who make high usage of certain services, that these customers should make a contribution towards those costs rather than spreading the expenses over all accounts. In general, savings accounts with very low balances, and in particular those with frequent transactions, run at a loss to the society." The society says the difference between the amount it receives in interest on mortgages and that paid to investors is under pressure from the continuous demand for lower mortgage rates, special discounts and higher investment rates. Last week, it cut its mortgage rate to 10.95 per cent for new borrowers and will bring existing borrowers into line on March 1. Staff will encourage customers to consolidate accounts to bring them above the charge thresholds, and to switch to using cash dispensers or the Maxis account to avoid charges. Letters will be sent to those savers likely to incur charges. Cash dispensers will also warn customers about to trigger charges. In 1990, the Cheltenham & Gloucester imposed a minimum of £100 on its instant access gold account. The C&G's members voted it the power to levy charges on savings accounts last year and it has already warned there may be charges for duplicate statements. However, the C&G says its charges will only be for extra services. Abbey National says it has "absolutely no plans at all to introduce anything of this nature." John Berry, marketing manager, said: "Their desire for change is borne out of the constant pressure on margins. We are all looking for ways to supplement the overall income. It would be wrong to say that we have not thought about it." The Woolwich said it had no "current plans to introduce charges". The Nationwide, paying 5.93 per cent on instant access accounts above £1, has no plans to follow the Halifax.

Wembley expects loss up to £8.5m

By OUR CITY STAFF

WEMBLEY, owner of the eponymous stadium, will learn over the next few months whether the combined talents of Bryan Adams, Eric Clapton and Elton John, all booked to appear there, will be sufficient to pull it out of a Gulf war-induced slump.

Sir Brian Wolfson, Wembley's chairman, announced a restructuring package including a one-for-one rights issue to raise £7.5 million. The largest shareholders, Sir Brian and associated interests, are taking up the rights to maintain their holding at about 23 per cent of the enlarged share capital. The restructuring of difficult trading in 1991, when American superstars stayed away from the Wembley stadium, produced a loss before tax estimated at £8.5 million maximum (£13.2 million profit) in the year to end-December, but Wembley is to pay a 0.9p final dividend, making 1.8p (2.4p) total, on the existing shares. The company is buying a further 25 per cent of the National Leisure Catering business that serves the stadium, Wembley Arena and the conference centre, as well as other exhibition and sporting venues, taking the company's holding to 75 per cent. The cost is £3.25 million, payable in new shares. Sir Brian said that although there was little sign of an economic upturn, the specific negative factors that had marred last year would not recur in 1992.

Lilley plea to Brussels puts Redland bid in doubt

By MARTIN WALLER

THE future of the £580 million hostile bid by Redland for fellow building materials group Steeley has been cast into doubt by a surprise announcement from Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, that implies the offer could run into monopoly problems. Steeley shares tumbled 37p to 332p as the stock market took the view that the bid would not succeed. With Redland down 5p at 465p, the offer is now worth more than 395p a share.

Mr Lilley said he was asking the European Commission to refer back for consideration by the British Office of Fair Trading an earlier joint venture between Steeley and building group Tarmac. Under EC rules this has to go to Brussels, while the Redland bid is being considered by the OFT, but members can request the EC for jurisdiction if they feel a deal under consideration would impede national competition. Mr Lilley said the Tarmac joint venture "raises competition concerns in distinct markets within the UK for bricks and clay roofing tiles". The venture has been shelved for the duration of the bid, but it would create market concentrations far lower than if Redland and Steeley merged. The EC has three weeks to decide. It is the first time Britain has attempted to have

one referred back, although two similar German applications in the past have failed. Steeley and Tarmac have about 17 per cent of the national brick market and more than 35 per cent of clay tiles. Redland and Steeley between them have 17 per cent of bricks, but the concentration of clay tiles is even higher, well over 40 per cent.

Richard Miles, chief executive of Steeley, welcomed the development. "He (Mr Lilley) must have considered it very carefully and must consider that there are a series of questions to be answered. He must be very concerned before he puts his head over the parapet and asks for it back." He added that there was now even more reason for an eventual reference to the Monopolies Commission by the OFT of the larger Redland bid. A referral would be welcomed by Steeley "because we believe the bid to be inadequate and not right for our shareholders".

Both parties were apparently taken aback by the news. Gerald Corbett, Redland finance director, said: "It's irritating because our arguments were gaining ground and we were winning, and their defence has been increasingly perceived as rather weak." Redland has persistently indicated it would be prepared to

Michelle Mould, above, marketing manager with Cedairmil in Surrey, has won the Woman Business Traveller of the Year award from *Business Traveller* magazine. Ms Mould spent more than 100 days away on business last year, visiting 16 countries and spending in excess of 200 hours in the air. Ms Mould, aged 29, was nominated by her husband, Paul Wright, who works for the same firm. Her prize is a holiday to Hawaii and San Francisco. Cedairmil is a family-owned company, which specialises in marketing aerospace equipment.

Private investors boost unit trusts

By SARA MCCONNELL

PRIVATE investors were largely responsible for a sevenfold increase in unit trust sales last year, the Unit Trust Association said yesterday. In the first three quarters of 1991, net new investment from individuals totalled £1.7 billion, an increase of more than 200 per cent on the previous year's figure.

Buoyant sales of unit trust personal equity plans (Peps) also helped push net new investment in unit trusts last year up to £2.8 billion from £392 million in 1990. Gross sales of unit trust Peps in 1991 totalled £753 million, a new record and a 40 per cent increase on 1990's record of £539 million.

Net new investment in Peps was up 31 per cent to £652 million. Total funds under management in unit trusts via Peps amounted to £1.7 billion, 86 per cent up on the £914 million total at the end of 1990.

Philip Warland, the association's director general, said: "I think the growth in unit trust Peps business during 1991 is a remarkable achievement as it has taken place against a background of no 1991 increase in the unit trust Peps allowance of £3,000. . . We shall continue to press the government to give unit trusts the same £6,000 annual allowance already enjoyed by other managed Peps."

Overall, gross sales of unit trusts in 1991 were 22 per cent up at £10.5 billion. Redemptions fell £506 million last year to £7.7 billion.

Mr Warland said the figures were encouraging. "I believe 1991's upturn in unit trust sales is an extremely positive sign, particularly given that much of it appears to come from direct investment by the general public."

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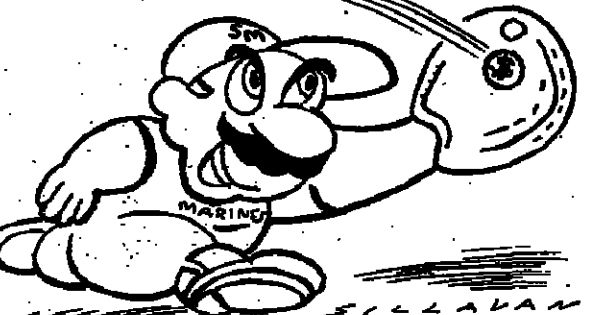
The value of investments may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest.

Nintendo touches baseball nerve

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICA has apparently returned to playing its favourite sport - Japan bashing. A concerted effort is being mounted to thwart a \$100 million bid from Nintendo, Japan's most successful video games maker, for a baseball team.

Baseball is marketed as America's favourite sport and Hiroshi Yamauchi, president of Nintendo in Japan, wants to play in the big league where players can earn up to \$4 million a year. He heads a new investor group called The Baseball Club of Seattle, which has offered to buy the loss-making local team, the Seattle Mariners. Jeff Smulyan, the team's owner, said he would sell for



\$100 million to anyone who would keep the American League franchise in the home town. Nintendo has done its best to dress up the investor group as a home-grown bunch. Its directors include John McCaw, a director of McCaw Cellular Communications, a Seattle company and the biggest mobile telephone group in America. he is opposed to foreign ownership of teams. Nintendo has done its best to dress up the investor group as a home-grown bunch. Its directors include John McCaw, a director of McCaw Cellular Communications, a Seattle company and the biggest mobile telephone group in America.

Frank Shrontz, Boeing's chairman and chief executive, Christopher Larson of Microsoft and John Ellis, chairman and chief executive of the local Puget Sound Power & Light Company. Nintendo also stresses that the team would be managed by a 15-year Pacific Northwest resident, Minoru Arakawa, president of Nintendo America - and Mr Yamauchi's son-in-law. Whichever way it is counted, however, Nintendo is putting up 60 per cent of the money. Anti-Japan feeling is running high. America is still smarting from President Bush's lack of success in persuading the Japanese to buy more cars. The City of Los Angeles this week withdrew a \$122 million contract for Sumitomo to build train carriages.

Matthew Bond

Below the plimsoll line

As the immovable object currently squashing the re-emerging life out of the economy of western Europe, Germany is once again enjoying one of its regular periods of unpopularity.

Of course, the driving force behind these bouts of disfavour is long established — envy. After all, what other country would see the threat of a steelworkers' strike and the consequent possibility of still higher interest rates rewarded by a £200 million export order for a 67,000-ton, 900-cabin cruise liner from P&O?

Lord Sterling P&O's skipper has clearly had a most powerful telescope trained on the economic future, given that the as-yet unnamed vessel is to be purpose-built, by Germans, for the British cruise market. With an ever-growing mountain of evidence and opinion signalling no early end to our recession, an order for a small fleet of rowing boats might have been more appropriate.

Surely the P&O shipyard of Meyer Werft will be filled with the sound of laughter for the next three years at the thought of building such a palace of maritime splendour for a country so clearly sinking below the economic plimsoll line.

As the shipyard workers grow tired of the old Essen-gid jokes, a new strain of British cruise passenger humour could develop.



"Hey Hans, have you heard that British Coal has booked a compassionate cruise for 1,200 redundant miners? Only another 899 cabins and the ship will be full." Or "Helmut, have you heard about the passenger who paid for a round the world cruise with his London dividend cheque? Not Neither have I." Ho, ho, ho.

That is what you might imagine, but you would be wrong. According to a survey from their chambers of commerce, the Germans, especially German employers, are now full of admiration for the British worker, who they believe is hard-working, co-operative, rarely goes on strike and costs considerably less than his German counterpart. Better still, British firms pay tax at rates "the Germans can only dream of".

So what do British workers dream of? Well in Scotland, and around Glasgow in particular, they dream about effective steel strikes and subsidies that would enable them to win — or even to tender for — contracts to build luxury cruise liners. In short, they dream of being German. It is a dream that just might come true and could yet see P&O's new vessel gracing the waters of the Clyde. For German steel bosses have identified greater Glasgow as a ready source of a willing and experienced alternative to their own belligerent workforce, and believe that a chartered visit to the river's lower reaches by the huge ship could be just the focus for a post-Raven-sraig recruiting campaign. Not so much "on yer bike", as "on yer luxury cruise liner". For you, Jimmy, the recession is over. Next stop Hamburg.

But while German chambers of commerce were having the vision to consider matters Anglo-Saxon and Celtic, their British counterparts stuck resolutely and depressingly to home territory. The latest quarterly economic survey from the British chambers showed business confidence falling away as 1991 drew to a close with recovery apparently none the nearer. Although Miles Middleton, the president, attempted to paint an encouraging picture, the survey concluded by saying "when the recovery does come, British industry may not be in fighting form".

But, in fact, fighting form may be the only thing British industry will be in, should recovery ever dawn. Defence may not exactly be the growth sector of tomorrow — as the loss of 2,500 naval support jobs made clear — but the award of a £400 million order for three frigates to the Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde was a rare bit of good news. There's just one question. Where will they get the steel?

BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Jacobs

Loner with the team's health at heart

The chief executive of Bupa tells Carol Leonard that private and public medicine should co-operate

This summer, when the tour guide shows American tourists around the gardens at Middle Temple, she might care to cast her eyes upwards, towards an open window in an adjacent office building.

There, on the first floor, she will probably spot a middle-aged man, a little over 5ft 8ins tall, thin and balding, with a pointed nose, pale, bright eyes and gap teeth. A rather ordinary looking man, a middle manager perhaps. One more unrecognised face in an otherwise faceless city.

She will be unaware that the man behind that unremarkable face is far from ordinary. Peter Jacobs, aged 48, is the chief executive of Bupa, the medical insurance and private hospitals group. He has been in the job for eight months, is a man who believes in hitting the ground running, and he has already installed a new management hierarchy. Anyone deemed "not to have the skills necessary to be part of the team" was swiftly shown the door.

A loss of £63 million on Bupa's insurance side in 1990 is expected to have been halved last year, with profits forecast for the current year. An overall loss from the group of £42 million in 1990 — profits from its hospitals and investments were obliterated by the insurance losses — should be improved to at least break-even point in 1991. Premiums have risen by 20 per cent in each of the past two years, and Jacobs is now confident that, more importantly, the very culture at Bupa has been changed.

Jacobs says: "The health care insurance industry had a long period of very satisfactory growth, with a small number of players, and, frankly, I think it got rather complacent. It was not particularly well managed and the larger commercial insurers saw an opportunity to come into a pretty sleepy market. Something like 18 of them have come in over the last couple of years. It means that Bupa has gone from relatively easy market conditions into a much more competitive situation. That has required a change in culture and attitudes. We now have to compete not just in terms of price but also customer service." His objective is to restore Bupa's market share to about 55 per cent — it has slipped from 70 per cent to less than 50 per cent — and "to provide levels of customer service which are way beyond anything else in the market".

Jacobs speaks rapidly, with few pauses, and with a soft Yorkshire accent. He finds it difficult to sit still. "My wife reckons that when I'm on a long telephone call, I do at least five

miles," he says. "I can't stop pacing up and down."

The cultural change Jacobs has wrought at Bupa is reflected in his personality. Everyone is now on first name terms. "I'm very definitely Peter, not Mr Jacobs," he says. "Bupa used to be very hierarchical, I'm trying to change that." He considers it "very artificial" to address people more formally. Jacobs asks direct questions, is unfazed when they are presented to him in an equally forthright manner and, unusually for someone so energetic, he is an extremely good listener. He admits, as a consequence perhaps, to being both a good negotiator and a good judge of character.

When hiring senior executives — something he has done with proven success at S&W, Berisford, British Sugar and Mars — he thinks chemistry is just as important as track record. "If the chemistry is wrong, you don't end up with a team. First impressions are very important. There is a school of thought which says that, in interviews, you reach a decision within the first 30 seconds. I have some sympathy with that. A lot of people try to create an impression which is not truly them. They want to come across as forceful, dynamic people and they stride in the door with their hand outstretched in quite an artificial manner. That, to me, shows not nerves, but a lack of judgment." Curiously though, for someone who places such importance on teamwork, Jacobs is not a team player. He admits that he is not naturally a good employee, in anything but the top job. "I don't like being told what to do, that I have to attend certain functions. It makes me bristle. I'm afraid. In any job I've had I have always tried to buck the system. It has occasionally landed me in hot water but, more often, paid dividends." Jacobs even goes as far as describing himself as, at heart, a loner. "I would like to have more time on my own, it's one of my objectives." He admits that he is susceptible to a mild form of claustrophobia. He avoids crowded situations, would never go to a football match, and says that he can actually feel "quite scared" in a stand with hundreds of people.

"I just dislike being herded around. I like the freedom of being able to make up my own mind on timing and what I do. I abhor traffic jams to the point that if there's a route that I know will be clear, even if it is going to take me much longer, I will take the clear route to keep moving. It's stupid but I don't like being hemmed in." That aversion to crowds means the Jacobses — Peter and Eileen, his wife of 25 years — often holiday at a house owned by his sister, a



Confidants: Eileen and Peter Jacobs relax in the garden in front of one of her sculptures, with their dog Charlie

geneticist, in the Outer Hebrides.

According to friends, he and his wife — an occupational therapist-turned-sculptor, and the mother of his three children, twins Andrew and Michael, aged 23, and Katrina, aged 19 — have a particularly close relationship. Henry Lewis, a former managing director of Marks and Spencer, who knows Jacobs socially and through business, since he is the deputy chairman of Berisford when Jacobs was the chief executive, says: "He clearly confides in his wife a lot and they have a very good marriage. But this loner side of his character does not come through. He creates the impression instead of being cool, calm, controlled and logical. He is modest, unassuming and not at all stuffy, and he is very good at putting a team together and then motivating and managing it. He is, above all else, an exceptional manager. In fact, of all the company directors I have ever been associated with, I would rate Peter right among the very top."

Jacobs will doubtless have discussed with his wife one of the main obstacles to improving Bupa's customer service — its computer system. "It's a system which is particularly rigid," he explains. "In terms of customer service it can make us look like idiots. When people want to renew their premiums it might send out multiple forms, or send cheques to the wrong place, to the patient instead of to the surgeon, or claims might be rejected when they should not have been. We can bring about a number of improvements, but ultimately it will have to be replaced and that is a three-year job."

Home is a five-bedroomed, 1926 Georgian-style property in Northwood, Middlesex. It is there that Jacobs also debates another subject now close to his heart: the future of the NHS. His wife comes from a large Glaswegian family, predominantly employed in the medical world. "I have had my ear bent," says Jacobs, laughing. He laughs easily, has a ready wit and

operation at a private hospital. Just as he supports the principle of the NHS — he argues that optional use of private facilities is to the common good since it releases resources in the public sector — he is an outspoken supporter of state education. He went to state schools in Ayrshire and then Glasgow — where his father was an accountant with ICI — and read mechanical engineering at Glasgow University. He sent his own children, initially, also to state schools. Although he has always voted Conservative, he professes himself pleased with that party's more caring image and, for a man who earns about £400,000 a year, he is not unduly materialistic. He is more achievement-driven than money motivated.

The by-pass operation made him aware, he says, of his own mortality, as well as the need to exercise swimming at the RAC Club and indoor tennis at the David Lloyd Centre — and to eat properly. But it did not bring with it any religious experiences. He describes himself as being Jewish but agnostic. "My wife has a stronger religious background, she is more knowledgeable and a more regular attendant. I'm supportive of her views, but I don't know whether I believe myself, probably not." He and his wife,

nevertheless, support several Israeli charities and one of his sons, Michael, now lives in Israel. Although Jacobs admits to being a bit of a perfectionist, being tidy to the point that he hangs up his wife's clothes, and is able to get by on five hours' sleep a night, he is not a workaholic. "I think everyone should be able to cope with their job during normal working hours and five days a week, although they should be prepared to work days on end, and nights, when a crisis arises," he says. "If people work long hours consistently it does make you question whether or not they are coping with the job."

That is certainly not a question anyone would ever ask of Jacobs. As Lewis concludes: "I remember the first time I met him. I was surprised that someone who seemed so ordinary had such a big job. He does not immediately come across as being the person of stature and quality that he is — there is much more to him than the image he projects. With so many businessmen it is the other way around."

Saunders interview

In my profile of Ernest Saunders (January 18), I mentioned defence costs of £400,000. This referred to civil and other legal costs before he was granted legal aid. Mr Saunders has also asked me to make it clear that while under legal aid he was unable to match the prosecution's legal team in quantity rather than quality; his own barristers and solicitors were totally dedicated, first class and he remains extremely grateful to them.

Bond issues signal South Africa's return to capital markets

By Jon Ashworth

SOUTH Africa is about to re-emerge as an important player in international capital markets after the successful launch of its first public issues in six years.

Investors have been quick to snap up the republic's first broadly based public issue, an Ecu250 million (£178 million) Eurobond due to be allocated on February 10. A DM400 million (£141 million) five-year bond issue in September was scaled up owing to demand.

The success of the issues, after such a long absence, almost guarantees a stream of similar launches in the months ahead. The money raised will help to fund housing provision and social services, as well as strengthen the republic's financial reserves.

South Africa's return to the world's financial stage has been carefully organised. Public sector institutions such as Eskom, the state electricity supply commission, raised DM650 million last year through the refinancing of existing bonds as they came up for maturity. Such refinancings were a subtle way of raising capital without enraging the republic's critics.

The bulk of the capital was raised from private investors in Germany and Switzerland. By denominating its latest issue in ecus, South Africa has deliberately targeted the international community for the first time and is pleased that institutions, as opposed to the private investors who usually take up the bulk of such issues, account for 25 per cent of subscriptions.

Germany, which has overtaken Britain as South Africa's biggest trading partner, has been the destination for much of the republic's international paper in the past.

Deutsche Bank lead-managed September's issue with the support of Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC), Paribas and Kleinwort Benson, among others.

This year, South Africa plans to carry on raising capital through a mixture of new issues and bond refinancings. Paribas, which led the ecu issue, supported by SBC, is likely to emerge as the republic's main adviser on future launches. Stephen West, head of bond syndication at Paribas Capital Markets Group, said the aim was to attract a greater selection of investors into the South African name.

Mr West said: "To do an issue of this size is a sign of the strength of the republic. The ecu has broader appeal than the mark, and this one has gone to almost every country in Europe." South Africa was likely to branch into other currencies, including the dollar and yen.

Stocks in Johannesburg closed on a subdued note as government ministers convened for what could be the last session of parliament under white majority rule. President FW de Klerk gave warning that state expenditure would rise in the months ahead. This, he said, would increase an already onerous burden of tax and debt servicing. South Africa's return to international financial and trading markets would enhance the ability of the economy to grow.

Wembley offers its game plan

SIR Brian Wilson has put in place at Wembley the kind of clean-up programme the market has been looking for since the share price started to sink from last April's 91p high under the weight of towering borrowings.

The banks have agreed to renegotiate facilities and covenants but insist that shareholders should bear some of the pain. Wembley is making a one-for-one rights issue at 30p to raise £37.3 million and shore up its battered balance sheet.

The group is also swapping its loan stock into convertible preference shares and issuing new ordinary shares worth £3.25 million to America's ARA Services Corporation. That will provide a supportive 6.8 per cent shareholding once the rights issue is completed. In return, Wembley raises its holding in the National Leisure Catering joint venture from 50 to 75 per cent.

Wembley has invested £240 million over the past five years but never received the benefit of the doubt from the market. The restructuring will bring gearing down from 97 to 70 per cent and cut borrowings from £156 million, but further disposals are promised in the medium term to achieve a more comfortable 55 per cent.

Non-core assets that could be sold include American properties and possibly even the Guild film distribution business, now buoyed up by riding high on the back of the reshuffle in the television industry and a few blockbuster releases.

The market's doubts continue. The shares slipped 3½p to 33½p, putting them step on the theoretical ex-rights price.



No mean feat: Hi Tec is expanding on the Continent under Frank van Wezel

Profits before tax could be £12.5 million this year, putting the shares on 11 times earnings, although brokers with long memories say the group has disappointed expectations in the past. Wembley has estimated an £8.5 million pre-tax loss for 1991 after extensive write-offs and forecast a dividend that offers a 7 per cent historic yield. A degree of caution would still seem look advisable.

Hi-Tec Sports

CONVENTIONAL wisdom has it that Hi-Tec Sports benefited last year from British consumers trading down to its sports shoes from the premium brands produced by

Nike, Reebok and Adidas. In fact, the 1991 figures are likely to show British sales and profits down about 10 per cent and an unchanged market share. The real story behind the company's strength was its successful diversification into America and continental Europe.

The company, led by Frank van Wezel, is taking advantage of its strong share price to reduce debt through a £10.3 million one-for-five rights issue before the next stage of growth.

It plans to acquire its distributors in Germany and Spain and expand its existing subsidiaries in other continental countries. Just as importantly, Mr van Wezel is not taking up his rights,

cutting his holding from 70 per cent to 56 per cent. This will take the sting out of one of the strongest City objections to the stock.

The company is forecasting pre-tax profits of £9 million for the year to February 2, against £8.2 million, and will lift the dividend from 5p to 5.5p. Next year it could make at least £10 million, which would give earnings of 15p, putting it on a prospective price-earnings ratio of just under 12 times the ex-rights price of 176p.

With the Olympics in Barcelona and football's World Cup finals in America approaching, the shares should attract topical interest over the next two years.

The rights should be taken up.

Portfolio
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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add price points to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on page 15. It matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Hammerhead	Property	
2	Kilnworth Ben	Bank/Disc	
3	Spicer (P)	Industrial	
4	Compass	Leisure	
5	Meyer Int	Building/Rtd	
6	Island Press	Food	
7	Land Sec	Property	
8	Barnard Bw	Bank/Disc	
9	Br Vite	Industrial	
10	ERF	Motor/Air	
11	Nat West	Bank/Disc	
12	Stn Bus	Industrial	
13	Abbey NI	Bank/Disc	
14	GWR Co	Leisure	
15	Classey Bros	Industrial	
16	Rennell	Chem/Plas	
17	Concor	Industrial	
18	Spring Ram	Industrial	
19	Meady	Building/Rtd	
20	Newman Tals	Building/Rtd	
21	Medeva	Industrial	
22	New Int	Newspaper/Pub	
23	Aynsley Mord	Industrial	
24	Oran	Building/Rtd	
25	New Concess	Property	
26	Seavoyard	Industrial	
27	Ellis & Bover	Chem/Plas	
28	De La Rue	Industrial	
29	Busck Johnson	Building/Rtd	
30	Cadell	Bank/Disc	
31	Smith & Neph	Industrial	
32	Hewlett	Newspaper/Pub	
33	Lloyd	Bank/Disc	
34	Whence	Industrial	
35	Dunhill	Drugs/Phar	
36	South West	Water	
37	Watney SG	Bank/Disc	
38	Leeds	Textiles	
39	Anglian Water	Water	
40	Crook	Chem/Plas	
41	RRM	Textiles	
42	Brace	Industrial	
43	Type TV Ltd	Leisure	
44	HSC	Bank/Disc	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUNDAY

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Moderate losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 13. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day February 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1991

Halifax and the widow's mite

The widow's mite is no longer wanted at the Halifax. From today, its branches will have brochures and posters telling small savers that they could be charged if they let their balances fall below £50 and that those with less than £250 will be able to make only two counter withdrawals a month without incurring charges.

This follows last year's decision by the largest building society to stop paying interest to people over 21 with less than £50 in their accounts.

Those among the Halifax's 13.6 million savers who do not visit their branches before the end of April could find a quarterly charge of £2.50 has been deducted without warning from their savings accounts when they next have their passbooks made up.

It is possible that those with tiny balances in savings accounts could have several quarterly charges nabbed from their accounts. The Halifax's computers are trying to identify those with dormant accounts and they should receive a letter advising

them of the new charges. However, many of those letters are likely to go to former addresses and not reach the savers.

Those reading the leaflets, entitled *Managing Your Personal Finances*, may miss the point if they do not read beyond the first few paragraphs. These tell savers that the Halifax wants to manage its business in a "professional and prudent way", and go on to talk of pressures on the margin between the interest received on mortgages and the interest paid to investors and the need "not to put the society's financial security at risk".

Small accounts are not cost-effective for the society, which is trying to reduce the queues at its counters. The cheque-based Maxim account escapes the new charges. That is no comfort for those who have opted for the cardcash account because it will not let them overdraw. They will



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

be encouraged to move over to the Maxim cheque account, which will let them get into debt.

The society says it does not know how many people will be hit by the new charges. Its counter staff have all been trained to warn customers and explain how changing to the Maxim account, consolidating several small accounts or using the cash dispenser network could avoid the charges.

The Halifax hopes that by reducing queues, the staff will have more time to counsel those behind with mortgage, personal

loan or Visa card payments. They will also have more time to sell more products to people with much larger balances and increase the profits.

Fair deals

Investors will hardly be surprised to learn that they have been disadvantaged by the very act designed to protect them. This week, the London School of Economics Business Performance Group said in a report, funded by the Unit Trust Association, that

investors have paid more to obtain a reduced choice.

More worryingly, the group expects consumer choice to narrow further, unless there are changes to the polarisation rules. These rules have forced most high street banks and building societies to opt to sell the products of only one insurance company.

Hamish McRae, the author, says that the market has been split into an upper tier for the sophisticated customer and a lower tier for the unsophisticated punter. The majority of investors go to tied agents, who are limited in what they can sell. These customers end up unwittingly paying the higher commissions that have been paid to these agents by insurance companies to secure their business.

How much they pay and the effect it might have on the amount actually invested remains a closely

guarded secret at present. But the Securities and Investments Board is looking at the whole question of disclosure and rumour has it that it is becoming more sympathetic to the idea of letting investors know more about actual costs before they sign up.

The Securities and Investments Board maintains that full disclosure of commission would disadvantage independent financial advisers, as insurance companies would change their methods of payment to tied agents if these had to be revealed.

The LSE report suggests a way forward that would be welcomed by all investors and would treat independents and tied agents equally. It wants investors to be told how much of their lump sums or premiums is actually invested.

If investors find out that only tiny proportions of their savings are actually invested, it might make it difficult to sell some products. But that can only be to the good and will reduce the number of unsuitable products being sold.

As financial hardship spreads, lenders are under growing pressure to fund counselling services

Debt advice threatened by cash shortage

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE future of the Money Advice Trust, the charity set up to channel private sector funds for debt counselling into Citizens' Advice Bureaux and money advice centres is being called into question because of lack of money.

The trust said this week that it might not be able to keep going in its present form unless building societies and banks gave substantially more than they have so far.

The whole building society movement has only pledged £63,000 directly to local initiatives. None has given money to the trust. Banks gave £88,000 directly to the trust last year and have pledged further funding. The trust says it needs £3 million a year.

So concerned is the government at the lack of money for this work that building society chief executives have been called to a meeting with Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister, on February 3, to discuss the future of the trust.

The meeting is being interpreted by some societies as an attempt to put pressure on them to come up with more money to deal with the potentially embarrassing political problem of widespread debts and arrears in the run-up to the general election. Several societies, including the Woolwich, the Leeds, and the Cheltenham & Gloucester — respectively the third, fifth and sixth largest — said they did not expect to attend the meeting. The Alliance & Leicester, the fourth largest, has not yet committed itself. The two largest, the Halifax and the Nationwide, and the Bradford & Bingley will attend.

None of these societies has yet paid any money to the Money Advice Trust or plans to do so, although this week the Nationwide said it was putting up £345,000 to help the London money advice unit of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux and money advice centres funded from public money are increasingly stretched as the debt problem grows and local councils are struggling. The National Consumer Council is to publish a consultative paper on February 2 with a warning that debt

counselling provision has not kept pace with the growing demand. Figures from the NCC show that at best only one in seven people in debt is likely to be able to get money advice.

The NCC said: "We have always argued that the finance industry made a lot of money out of the credit explosion, and now they have a responsibility to help people in difficulties."

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "Debt problems are going through the roof. Coverage seems to be very patchy and it often depends on where you live. Some CABs have big, well-staffed debt counselling centres, while others have to manage with a general helper who is dealing with other things as well. It is questionable whether the private sector is doing enough."

The Money Advice Trust was set up in 1990 to generate more funds for debt counselling from the private sector. Banks and building societies in particular were targeted, to ease the strain on publicly funded organisations like the Citizens' Advice Bureaux and money advice centres.

Adam Carnegie-Brown, the new director of the Money Advice Trust, said it aimed to provide a "coherent support system" for debt counselling services. These services provide advice on all sorts of debt, including mortgage arrears and repossessions. The trust asked lenders to pay £10 for every £1 million they lend. It hoped to raise £3 million a year in this way.

But last year, it identified



Eaglesham: patchy cover



Spiralling debt: Fenella Kemp, of Europ Assistance, manning a helpline

only £63,000 given by building societies to local money advice initiatives, with no forward commitments. The trust has not received any money directly from building societies. Banks were slightly more generous, but only gave £88,000 between them to the trust. They have also pledged a total of £175,000 to the trust and a further £450,000 in secondments, of whom Mr Carnegie-Brown is one. Banks invested £400,000 in local initiatives last year without going through the trust, and a further £500,000 is pledged locally for 1992-3.

Mr Carnegie-Brown said: "If we don't get the funding we need from building societies, our aims will have to come under serious review, and the trustees would have to look again at our position. The banks have been generally satisfactory, but the building societies stand out like a sore thumb."

Building societies have never been enthusiastic about funding the trust. They have always argued that they are already spending money training staff in branches to counsel people in debt. Several have introduced helplines or put on extra staff to deal with debt problems since the beginning of this year. People are directed to Citizens' Advice Bureaux if necessary. Some societies, like the Halifax, also say they contribute directly or indirectly to debt counselling services, like CABs. The Halifax is discussing seconding some of its employees to CABs this year. The Nationwide money is pledged over the next three years to the London Money Advice Support Unit. John

Hutchinson, Nationwide's retail operations director, said: "We were looking for a way to get involved and this gives us a link both to London and to an information service nationwide. Although we can give advice on mortgage problems, people really need independent advice."

The society is not planning to give anything directly to the Money Advice Trust, however. "We don't think the Money Advice Trust will be as effective a support if it is just funded by a levy. It will be hands off with the tendency for all institutions to put in the minimum." Other lenders admit their main concern is always to get the mortgage debt paid rather than debts to credit card or hire purchase companies.

The Bradford & Bingley is planning to set up a Freephone line for borrowers to query statements or inform the societies of repayment difficulties. But the society said: "We are more concerned that where people are in debt, they make an effort to pay the mortgage back because it is secured. Independent money advice services may not give this advice."

The Cheltenham & Gloucester does a detailed check of incomings and outgoings for mortgage applicants and has now introduced a more detailed form which it hopes will stop people borrowing more than they can afford. The society said: "We don't see why we should fund something like the Money Advice Trust which is principally there to help borrowers from other lenders who have got into trouble with repayments."

A helping handset

IT WAS a familiar tale of mounting debt problems, fuelled by a seemingly endless recession. The man on the other end of the Europ Assistance confidential debt counselling helpline had been evicted with his wife and two children by his building society for non-payment of his mortgage (Sara McConnell writes).

Although, unlike some, he still had a job, he was only working four days a week and was the only breadwinner. Outstanding poll tax bills and a large bank loan to start up a business completed the depressing picture of seemingly insurmountable debt.

Judy Abbott, a specialist debt counsellor, answering the phone at Europ Assistance's Sussex headquarters, advised him to visit his local Citizens' Advice Bureau and get hold of a booklet called "Debt: A Survival Guide". This has a section for people to fill in their income and expenditure, which helps them to work out what they can afford to pay back to creditors. In this case, income

would be the caller's net income plus child benefit.

Mrs Abbott advised the caller to take the completed form back to the CAB to be checked over, then write off to creditors suggesting how much he could afford to pay back to each. Food, fuel and vital bills like the water rates were top priority, but other expenditure could be cut back to pay the creditors an agreed sum every week.

Mrs Abbott was one of a number of specialist counsellors invited by Europ Assistance, the support services company, to help run a free debt counselling helpline for members of the public for one day last Wednesday. The service was coordinated by Fenella Kemp, Europ Assistance's legal adviser and counsellor. The line received 503 calls.

Hugh McMurray, Europ Assistance's head of legal services, conceded that he hoped there would be a spin-off for the company with new business, but said: "Our main reason for doing this is to gauge the level of what is

required. A lot of people only phone when they are in serious financial difficulties."

Normally, people have access to Europ Assistance and other helplines only through their lender, although few lenders have yet started to offer this service. The Mortgage Corporation, the centralised lender has been offering access to a free confidential helpline manned by Europ Assistance for all its 60,000 borrowers. Barry Meeks, TMC's commercial director, said that hundreds of borrowers had called the line.

The Halifax also offers access to a Europ Assistance helpline for borrowers who have been made redundant but the service is only available to those taking out the society's mortgage protector insurance.

The National & Provincial's 350,000 borrowers have been able to call the society's new free debt helpline since January 17. The number is 0800 757500 and it is open from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

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The advertisement has been issued by the five investment trust companies (The Scottish Mortgage & Trust, The Meric Investment Trust, The Baillie Gifford Japan Trust, Mid West International Investment Trust and Baillie Gifford Share Income) and has been approved by Baillie Gifford & Co. Baillie Gifford & Co. are the Managers and Secretaries of the investment trusts and are Managers of The Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Savings Scheme. The investment trust companies mentioned above do not carry out investment business as defined in the Financial Services Act 1986, so they are not subject to the Act. *Source: Mitrail, mid-market prices with net income reinvested. 21.11.81 to 1.11.91.

Lenders offer free job-loss protection

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

FREE unemployment insurance and cover against repossession are being offered to homebuyers and people remortgaging their properties, in an effort to stimulate the housing market. The policies are being offered because lenders feel that fear of unemployment is the biggest single factor holding back first-time buyers.

Citibank Mortgage is offering two years' free unemployment cover to all new borrowers this year. This cover on loans up to £120,000 or £1,000 a month will pay out for up to 12 months if the borrower loses his or her job. Those borrowing more can top it up.

Stephen Balme, marketing director of Citibank Mortgage, said the company wanted to reinject confidence into the

property market. "Unemployment and, equally importantly, fear of unemployment, has become the key factor behind this lack of confidence — as is illustrated by the closeness with which regional property prices match regional unemployment trends."

The policy covers unemployment alone, which is impossible for individuals to buy because insurance companies know that this accounts for the majority of claims on accident, sickness and unemployment policies. However, borrowers can add accident and sickness cover for £3.75 per £100 of mortgage payment a month. Typically a combined policy costs £6 per £100.

To qualify, the homebuyer must have been in continuous employment for the

previous 12 months. A survey by the Council of Mortgage Lenders indicates that 30 per cent of homebuyers in serious arrears are unemployed.

Nationwide Estate Agents is offering accident, sickness and unemployment cover to anyone who buys or sells a property through the network and then arranges a mortgage through it. The Safeguard cover is for one year.

The Stroud & Swindon Building Society is guaranteeing that it will not take possession of homes during the first two years of mortgage, even if arrears should accrue through unexpected events. The Safeguard mortgage has a capped interest rate and offers accident, sickness and unemployment cover for two years.



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Investor wins payout for obsolete account

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING society investors won a victory this week when Stephen Edell, building societies ombudsman, ruled that the Nationwide should pay compensation to an investor whose account became obsolete.

The Nationwide was held not to have given enough publicity on the difference in interest rates between the old BonusBuilder account, which was closed to new investors, and the new one it launched at the end of 1990.

The society now has to pay compensation of about £30 to make up the difference. Other cases involving the Nationwide and other societies are likely to be decided along similar lines.

Mr Edell argues that investors should be vigilant about their investments and societies must make sure the investors have enough information to make a proper choice.

In another case involving Nationwide, the ombudsman ruled that investors in 90-day accounts should not expect to move to a new account offered by a society without penalty. He said the argu-

ment that interest rates discriminated in favour of investors in the new 90-day account was outweighed by the fact that it had always been agreed that 90 days' notice or loss of interest in lieu was required.

However, such was the outcry from thousands of investors over the move that the Nationwide is likely to allow penalty-free transfers if they replace the current 90-day CapitalBuilder account.

Last year, the Rev Vivian Singh campaigned to get the society's rules changed so as to force it not to put existing investors at a disadvantage. His resolution attracted 90,000 votes, but failed to beat the proxy votes held by the society's chairman.

Since then, the society has set up a Freephone line on 0800 400417 for investors to call to find out what the main discontinued accounts are paying and the best rates available.

Nationwide improved its publicity last year and now writes to members whose savings are in accounts closed to new customers when new ac-

counts offering similar features are launched.

Late in 1990, societies tended not to inform investors of new accounts. Strong opinions voiced by investors stranded in low-paying accounts have changed that.

Mr Edell, and Jane Woodhead, the other building societies ombudsman, have had hundreds of cases referred to them relating to obsolete accounts.

Competition for market share has encouraged societies to launch new accounts offering better rates. They have until recently relied on the inertia of existing investors. People visiting branches infrequently could then be paid at a lower rate than the newly attracted investors. This allowed for better rates to be offered to attract the new money.

The onus has always been on the saver to seek out the best returns. Last summer the ombudsman suggested the societies should aid this by including main discontinued accounts in their interest rate advertisements. This should prevent investors from con-



Campaigner: Vivian Singh wanted rules changed

fusing their 90-day account with a new one.

The National & Provincial Building Society says that societies should provide quality advice and guidance. Its free advice line on 0800 446600 helped more than 50,000 customers to choose a higher paying account last month.

The Halifax Building Society has tens of thousands of savers in its instant access Instant Xtra account who would benefit from changing to the Instant Xtra Plus account. The top rate for the old account is 6.68 per cent net on sums over £10,000. The

new account pays 7.31 per cent net on sums over £10,000 and has a top rate of 8.03 per cent on sums over £50,000.

Other closed accounts include the Woolwich's Prime and Premium accounts; Alliance & Leicester's Capital Choice and Gold Plus accounts, and the Leeds Permanent's Pay and Save and Paid-up Share accounts. Both of these pay 2.18 per cent net. Anyone with £25 or more transferring to the Liquid Gold account would get between 4.2 per cent and 7.35 per cent.

Refunds speed up on overtaxed savings

BY LINDSAY COOK

MILLIONS of savers, whose income is too high to register their savings for gross payment of interest but who do not need to pay tax on all their savings, will be able to claim back any overpaid tax immediately, the Inland Revenue announced this week.

The change will be of greatest benefit to pensioners, whose total income takes them just above their tax allowances. As a result, they cannot register for gross payment of interest on any of their bank or building society accounts, even if most of it falls within their allowances. Now, anyone claiming back £50 or more can do so as soon as they have a certificate of interest.

Until this week, savers were told officially that they had to wait until the April 5 after the net interest was credited to their accounts before they could apply for a refund of overpaid tax. In this way, a single person with £3,296 income from bank and building society interest and no other income could wait up to a year for a £823.75 refund.

However, tax officials have been unofficially making re-

funds early. This new refund system brings tax deducted on savings accounts into line with tax deducted from dividends on shares and unit trusts.

Savers will, however, need to supply a certificate from their savings institution, detailing the tax deducted, before they can make a claim. This can result in long delays. When tax is deducted from dividends, a tax voucher is issued with the dividend notice to the investor.

Because fewer people than expected have claimed tax rebates on dividends, the 24 offices set up by the Revenue to pay such rebates have the capacity to process refunds on savings account interest. The setting up of their computers has also been completed ahead of schedule.

The change from a year-end application for refunds to a regular flow of claims should ease the anticipated logjam.

The Inland Revenue estimates that up to 8 million people will be able to claim back tax deducted from their investments.

Last year, the Revenue spent £7 million telling non-

taxpayers to register their savings accounts for gross interest. So far, 12.5 million accounts have been registered out of a possible 22 million, working on the basis of 1.5 accounts for each non-taxpayer.

The Revenue will embark on another advertising campaign explaining how refunds can be claimed, how to register and how to cancel a registration when circumstances change and a saver becomes a taxpayer.

More than 2 million married women have, since the introduction of independent taxation in April 1990, been able to claim deductions of tax on share and unit trust dividends. Large numbers have not done so.

The cost of paying the refund can be more than the tax refunded. A non-taxpayer holding the 100 free shares given to members of the Abbey National at the time of the flotation would have received dividends worth £9.50 in the year to April 5, 1991. The tax deducted would be £2.37 and the cost of refunding it is £12. By 1993-4 the cost of each refund will be down to £8.

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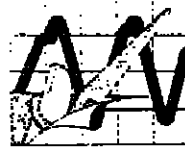
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Leeds repels boarder



French: determined

JIM French, the Leeds Permanent Building Society member who failed to win a place on the board of the society this week, is already planning to stand again next year (Lindsay Cook writes).

Mr French, a retired journalist, received 19,998 votes to come last in the ballot for five board places, but he did save his £150 deposit because he had more than 20 per cent of the votes cast for the lowest successful candidate. This was Arnold Ziff, who got 78,213 votes.

The Leeds had not published Mr French's election statement because he failed to send it to the society by the end of September, the closing date for nominations. Next year he is determined that he should not be disadvantaged in any way.

It will be his third attempt to get on to the board, which has no member-directors. In 1990 he submitted the names and signatures of 69 supporters to the society. The Building Societies' Act requires candidates to have the support of 50 members who have kept £100 in their accounts for two years continuously.

When the accounts of the 69 were checked, fewer than 50 had kept up the required amount. In 1991 the sup-

porters passed the test but Mr French did not realise that as an outside candidate he should produce an election address, or statement, by the close of nominations and so missed the deadline.

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Housing market stimulants prominent among Budget submissions to Chancellor

Lamont urged to double Miras limit

BY LINDSEY COOK
AND LIZ DOLAN

A LATE plea for a doubling of the mortgage tax relief limit for new loans in the Budget on March 10 is expected to be submitted to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, by the Council of Mortgage Lenders after its executive meeting next week.

Such an increase was first discussed with Treasury ministers in December, when the lenders were putting together their mortgage rescue package. At the time the Chancellor announced a temporary raising of the stamp duty threshold to £250,000 until August 19.

The lenders would also like the permanent threshold raised from its current level of £30,000. Properties sold for more than £30,000 face a 1 per cent tax after August 19.

Last week, Mark Bolat, the director-general of the CML, told a conference: "A simple increase in the tax relief ceiling to, say, £60,000, would be very expensive, adding several billion pounds a year to government expenditure if it was applied also to existing loans. However, there might be the possibility of increasing the tax relief ceiling to, say, £50,000 or £60,000, for new loans only, but combining this with limiting the period for which tax relief was available."

Mr Bolat has a knack of influencing Budgets. In January last year, he suggested that higher rate tax relief on mortgages might be scrapped without pain if the higher rate tax band started £4,000 later. The Budget actually increased the higher rate threshold by £3,000 when scrapping higher rate relief.

The previous year Mr Bolat and the Building Societies Association made a late submission to the Chancellor,



PAULA YOUNG

It is widely expected by the lobby groups after discussions with the Treasury that childcare paid for by employers will be exempted from tax. In the 1990 Budget, workplace crèches were exempted from tax. The move has benefited up to 4,000 parents.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies has asked the Chancellor to double the current £3,000 subscription limit for investment trusts in personal equity plans to £6,000, the current limit on all other equity-based Peps except unit trusts. The association said: "We do not think it right that a distinction is drawn for Peps purposes between investment trust companies and other non-trading or non-manufacturing companies. Property companies, other investment companies and insurance companies such as the Prudential all qualify in full for Peps."

The AITC has also called for the removal of the distinction between qualifying and non-qualifying investment trusts for Peps investors. It said: "It is illogical to continue to draw a distinction between qualifying and non-qualifying investment trusts when so many other companies which qualify in full within Peps hold substantial non-UK assets and earn substantial revenue from non-UK sources. The Unit Trust Association is equally keen to see the Peps limit for unit trusts doubled to £6,000. The UTA has pointed out to the Chancellor that more than two thirds of Peps taken out in each of the past two years were unit trust Peps."

The UTA also wants money funds to be able to offer tax exempt special savings accounts. Both the UTA and the Association of British Insurers are lobbying for tax changes to help them to compete more aggressively with their counterparts elsewhere in the European Community. The UTA wants the Chancellor to allow income from unit trusts to be distributed gross of tax to Continental investors. In other countries, the personal tax regime allows unit trust income to be paid free of tax. The ABI is urging the government to abolish taxation of the build-up of funds for life assurance policies sold to non-UK residents, leaving the proceeds from the policy to be taxed in the policyholder's own country.

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The Automobile Association wants the Chancellor to put more emphasis on environmental improvements. Issues to be addressed should include taxing petrol, rather than vehicles; increasing taxation on bigger engines; the widening still further of the price differential between leaded and unleaded petrol and diesel; and the exemption from new car tax of diesel cars and of vehicles that meet the new EC emission standards. Road tax should be frozen at £100.

Alan Diamond, consultant to Redmayne Bentley, the stockbroker, has called for the urgent reform of capital gains tax, with special reference to wider share ownership. Mr Diamond suggests that investments held for four years or more, be removed from the CGT net altogether. Those held for between two and four years should be subject to a 20 per cent tax rate, without indexation relief, and those sold within the first 12 months should be subject to the higher tax rate without indexation relief.

Parties draw commission from ranks

BY JILL INSLEY

AS the general election draws nearer, political parties are doing more than just shake their doors open to raise campaign funds. Party affinity cards and savings accounts have so far brought in £350,000 for the Labour party and £50,000 for the Liberal Democrats.

Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, introduced Labour's affinity Visa card at the party's autumn 1989 conference, in conjunction with the Co-operative bank.

The Liberal Democrats launched their own Co-op affinity Visa in autumn 1990. For each card account opened with a credit limit of £7,500 the parties receive £5. Beyond that limit they receive £10.

Both parties followed up the card with the launch of a tiered, premier high interest savings account, with a minimum investment of £500, also through the Co-operative bank.

Nearly 8 per cent, or 24,500, of the Labour party's 300,000 members have opened Visa accounts now, and 1,000 have opted for savings accounts. More than 7,500 of the 87,000 Liberal Democratic members have set up Visa accounts but very few have opened savings accounts.

Tony Manwaring, manager of the Labour party business plan and head of the general secretary's office, said it had become possible for the party to supply financial products after it reorganised its membership lists on a national basis, breaking down the previous constituency groupings. "The

party has set about since the last general election, to increase its funds, recruit more members and broaden services for members," he said. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have gone on to promote other products, including friendly society bonds with Family Assurance (contributing £17.50 to party funds), personal loans, and general insurance.

Last autumn the range was extended to offer full, independent financial advice from the Co-operative bank's independent financial advice arm, Co-operative Bank Financial Services.

The Labour party has just one proviso. It does not want to promote insurance investment companies which rejected the approaches of unions. On those grounds, two life offices have been rejected — one of which is regularly in the top five for with-profits performance.

Mr Manwaring said: "We don't wish to promote those companies and we don't believe our members would wish to invest in them."

But he added that, should members particularly wish to invest with the two "black-listed companies", they could do so as clients of Co-operative Bank Financial Services rather than as members of the Labour party. The party will not receive any commission for those transactions.

The Conservative party does not promote any financial services.

It said: "We depend on our voluntary contributions and we feel that it is the way members want to support us."

Mortgage rate cuts spread

LENDERS continued to announce cuts in their standard mortgage rates this week, following Abbey National's surprise decision to bring down the cost of loans to stimulate the stagnant housing market. First-time buyers and new borrowers are being offered particularly low rates, as lenders see them as the key to recovery. (Sara McConnell writes.)

The Cheltenham & Gloucester has undercut its competitors by setting its new standard variable rate at 10.75 per cent (annual percentage rate 11.4 per cent) — a reduction of 0.75 per cent. Most other lenders have settled on a new rate of between 10.95 per cent and 10.99 per cent for standard loans.

New borrowers with the

C&G will also get a 1 per cent discount, bringing their rate down to 9.75 per cent. They will benefit immediately from the changes, while existing borrowers have to wait until April 1.

The Leeds Permanent has cut its basic rate from 11.5 per cent to 10.99 per cent (APR of 11.5 per cent). First-time buyers will get a further discount of 1.5 per cent for the first year, bringing their rate down to 9.4 per cent (APR 11.3 per cent). A first-time buyer will now pay less than £255 a month on a £40,000 endowment mortgage, £110 a month less than this time last year.

Borrowers at the Bristol & West will pay 10.99 per cent (APR 11.6 per cent) for their standard loans, a cut of 0.5

per cent. New borrowers will get a 1 per cent discount, reducing their rate to 9.99 per cent (APR 11.6 per cent).

The Britannia has cut its rate for first-time buyers to 8.95 per cent (APR 11.5 per cent), the lowest for more than 13 years. Chris Bonnell, general manager, lending, said: "I believe there are many potential first-time buyers just waiting to take the plunge. Highly attractive property prices combined with this 8.95 per cent rate should go a long way to getting the market moving."

Britannia's standard rate is 10.95 per cent (APR 11.6 per cent), down from 11.5 per cent. This takes effect immediately for new borrowers and from March for existing borrowers.

TSB to try card photos

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Trustee Savings Bank (TSB) is to offer credit cards carrying a photograph of the holder to 15,000 customers in the Brighton area in a 12-month pilot scheme. The scheme will use the TSB Truistcard, a combined credit card and £50 cheque guarantee card, and will test whether photocards are an effective way of combating credit card and cheque fraud.

Card issuers lost £122 million on card fraud in 1990 and have committed £500 million over the next three years to fighting fraud. Photocards are one of several options being considered.

The first cheque cards carrying photographs were piloted by the Royal Bank of Scotland last October. The scheme has this week been extended to a further 70,000 customers to assess retailer reaction.

However, at an industry conference on the credit card market this week, photocards were rejected as a long-term solution to fraud.

Iain Lindsey, banking director at Save & Prosper, blamed retailers for not checking card signatures carefully enough. He told delegates: "I am absolutely certain that the Royal Bank will see a reduction in fraud but if the industry as a whole was to adopt photocards, I believe that we would see a short term reduction in fraud and then it would rise again."

"The only way to 'coerce' retailers into checking cards would be to make retailers bear the cost of fraud, Mr Lindsey said.

EVEN BEFORE HE WAS BORN JOHN WILLIAMS NEEDED FINANCIAL ADVICE.



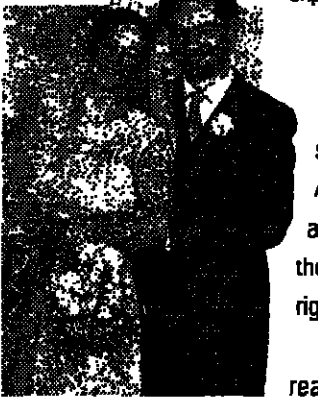
Certainly his parents knew he would benefit from financial advice that's independent.

They made sure he arrived in a family protected by a life policy perfectly suited to them, one where John's future was assured, whatever happened.

Their independent financial adviser had shown them too that such policies can also pay out substantial sums at critical points in a child's life - news which brought a smile to John's face when he was old enough to understand.

(Though whether he was suitably grateful for the school fees is open to question).

Certainly when he was old enough to start work, John followed his parents' example and investigated pensions straightaway. His independent financial adviser was able to help sort him out how much he should pay in and how much he could expect back.



As his income rose, John found himself considering active investment rather than simply saving for a rainy day.

Again with the benefit of financial advice that's independent he found the Unit Trusts and PEPs that were right for him.

Endless numbers of people were ready with advice when John got

married. Well meaning as it was, what John really needed was help to arrange insurances and savings for two. And, of course, the dreaded mortgage.

Almost everyone needs to borrow the money for their first home. Often people forget there's another side to it and so don't make their mortgage work hard enough for them. Not John. His adviser recommended an endowment as being the best option for John and found him the right one to link his payments to.

And when John became a father he too made sure there was a life policy protecting his new family.

So, where exactly did all this good financial advice come from?

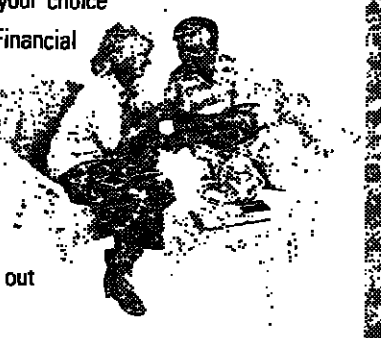
John, like many, many others, went to an Independent Financial Adviser.

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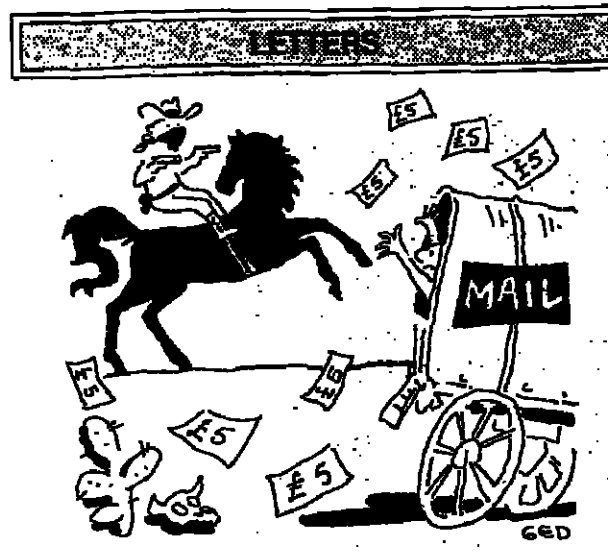
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Mail service at £5 an item

From Mr C.J. Nisbet

Sir, I have been notified that, with immediate effect, Lloyds Bank are going to charge their customers £5 an item for mail forwarding.

As for many others with a necessarily nomadic life-style, my bank provides my only permanent address. Forwarding mail is a simple but essential service and I supply the bank with sticky labels for the purpose. However, I have no control over what mail is sent to me. Much of it is unsolicited and unwanted, but in future each letter will cost me £5; and I have no control over this process, no way of avoiding it, no way of even checking that the sum deducted from my account equates to the number of items forwarded and no way of recovering disputed sums: the bank holds all the cards. If one bank with Lloyds one must accept the rapid erosion of one's capital in unpredictable £5 steps. I have no practical



option but to change to another bank which makes no such extortionate charges. Lloyds have lost an otherwise very satisfied customer of 25 years' standing. They will also lose the accounts of my children, whose even smaller bank balances must certainly not be exposed to Lloyds' depredations. And I have no doubt

Children's income and tax

From F.K. Airey

Sir, Regarding the income of children under 18, Touche Ross stated (December 28) that it is taxable at the parents' marginal rate.

If this income is derived from money given to the children by the grandparents is this not treated as the child's income personally?

Yours faithfully,
F.K. AIREY,
Beech Oak Farm,
Salehurst, East Sussex.

prevent parents from diverting their own investment income to their children in order to have it taxed at a nil rate or lower one (as each child is entitled to a personal allowance each year and his or her own basic rate band).

The rule only applies to gifts from the parents; grandparents, aunts, uncles and more remote relatives are not affected by it and income derived from their gifts is taxed as that of the recipient children. Even in the case of gifts from the parents, the rule only applies where the income arising exceeds £100 per annum per child.

The point which we were making in our previous response is that special rules apply where minor children derive income from capital given to them by their parents, as where the parents buy shares on their children's behalf or give them the money with which to do so. In such circumstances, the income generated is taxed as that of the parent who gives the capital. This is an anti-avoidance rule designed to

marked with the triangular logo are by Maurice Parry-Wingfield, technical partner, national tax, at Touche Ross, the accountant, in association with The Times. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

ELECTION WARNING:

The General Election is joining. Both the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats are keenly expected to higher taxes on higher earners. But many top economists now believe the Tories may be forced to do the same.

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CGT and transfers

From Mr A.A. Sorrell

Sir, Readers of Touche Ross's comment on Mr Morland's letter (December 14) might like to know of another aspect of the treatment of capital gains tax involved in the transfer of assets between spouses. In July 1990, we sold a cottage, which I had bought in 1971, but a half share in which I gave to my wife a few weeks before it was sold. Inland Revenue ruled that although my share of the gain was subject to CGT according to the normal rules, my wife's share, while attracting the £5,000 threshold, was abated by indexation only for the short period between the transfer and sale.

If I understand Touche

Ross's reply correctly, if our gain had resulted from selling shares, half of my holding of which I transferred to my wife before we both sold, she also would have been able to claim indexation for the whole period from March 1982, to the time of sale. The taxation treatment of the gains on the two assets seems inconsistent.

Yours faithfully,
A.A. SORRELL,
Ranelagh, Stewarts Road,
Week St Mary,
Holsworthy,
Devon

Indexation allowance is only available for the period of ownership, so it would be quite correct for Mrs Sorrell only to receive indexation allowance from the date of transfer to

Registering a right to shares

From Mr David Shapiro

Sir, I am concerned that Mrs K.M. Watt (Weekend Money letters, January 11) appears to have accepted that, though she may receive the net proceeds of her own and her husband's original investment (which may, incidentally, be more or less than that investment), she will lose the right to retain those shares.

She says that in September she wrote to the registrars intimating their change of address, and that her son's holding is being treated in the normal way. Presumably she wrote only one letter, clearly referring to all three share-

holders by name, and stating both their old and their new address. If this is the case, and if the registrars, as a result of that letter, duly amended their records in respect of her son's holding, then they must have received her letter. If this is correct, I cannot understand how they can now say that her notice of change of address had not been received.

It seems to me that, if the registrars have failed to give full effect to her letter, then they are responsible for her loss, which I think should not be limited to whatever the partly-paid shares can be sold for at the time they choose to sell them, but should take account of her reasonable expectation of future gain (including the bonus shares). Proper compensation would, of course, be the reinstatement of the holdings, but this is perhaps a question for a lawyer. I would certainly fight for more than merely the net proceeds of sale.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHAPIRO,
34 Woodhill Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Cash in hand

From Mr Neil Hutchings

Sir, There is a simple way for Dr Mary Corbett (Weekend Money letters, January 11) to obtain local currency in most European countries. She should open a Girobank account and then request a Postcheque card and book of Postcheques. These can be encashed very simply in any post office of participating countries without a charge being levied there.

The Girobank account here is debited after the documents reach Girobank headquarters.

I have used this method of obtaining local currency in large cities and small villages in France, Portugal, Spain and in remote Greek Islands over many years.

No problem has ever arisen with it and I have invariably been treated with courtesy and good humour and with a fraction of the delay experienced usually by my fellow travellers.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL HUTCHINGS,
41 Trindles Road,
South Nutfield,
Surrey.

MORTGAGE RATES ROUNDOFF										
	Standard rate	Comprehended at		Mortgage Investment E	Notice	Contract				
		25%	40%							
BANKS										
Ordinary Dep A/c										
Typical	2.65	2.66	2.12	none	7 day	_____				
Fixed Term Deposits										
Savings	7.17	7.17	5.24	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-628 1857				
	6.86	6.86	5.24	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-1157				
Living	6.86	6.86	5.25	2,000-4 mth	1 mth	Local Branch				
	6.70	6.70	5.25	2,000-4 mth	6 mth	Local Branch				
Midland	6.84	6.84	5.25	10,000-4 mth	1 mth	071-728 1035				
	6.75	6.75	5.40	10,000-4 mth	3 mth	0745 5355				
West	6.75	6.75	5.40	10,000-4 mth	3 mth	071-728 1035				
West	6.00	6.00	5.25	25,000-50,000	6 mth	071-728 1035				
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS										
Bank of Montreal	5.48	5.48	5.34	2,500	none	051-442 7777				
Bank of Montreal	5.78	5.81	4.73	2,500	none	051 628 2281				
Bank of Montreal	1.80	1.80	1.52	1,000	none	071 628 8543				
Bank of Montreal	5.58	5.58	5.40	1,000	none	051 628 2278				
Bank of Montreal	1.80	1.78	1.51	1,000	none	0272 4332				
Bank of Montreal	5.58	5.62	4.34	2,000	none	0742 5555				
Bank of Montreal	5.08	5.16	4.18	300	none	071-574 3574				
Bank of Montreal	6.08	6.21	4.57	2,000	none	051-658 8555				
Bank of Montreal	4.88	4.89	5.75	2,000	none	051-500 6000				
BUILDING SOCIETIES										
Ordinary share										
A/c	5.25	5.25	4.30	1 mth	none	_____				
Best buy - largest scale										
Portman	6.00	6.00	6.00	500 mth	inst	_____				
Portman & G	5.50	5.50	5.50	2,500 mth	Postal	_____				
Portman Bank	5.18	5.18	5.05	25,000 mth	30 day	_____				
Portman	5.78	5.78	7.81	2,500 mth	30 day	_____				
Portman & West	6.18	6.19	7.55	25,000 mth	1 year	_____				
Best buy - all areas										
Southdown	7.00	7.09	8.15	1 mth	inst	_____				
Harrold & Pitts	7.40	8.42	8.72	1,000 mth	Postal	_____				
Harrold & Pitts	7.40	7.48	8.55	10,000 mth	30 day	_____				
Harrold & Pitts	8.51	8.51	7.55	25,000 mth	30 day	_____				
Harrold & Pitts	8.10	8.10	7.55	25,000 mth	1 year	_____				
Cash/Cheque Accounts										
West	2.25	2.28	1.81	50 mth	Phone flow	_____				
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West	2.25	2.28	1.81	50 mth	Phone flow					

It is big business for the insurance industry, but there is growing disquiet at the hard sell on pension switching

Beware the siren song of a pension transfer salesman

By Helen Pridham

THE recession has forced many people to change jobs. Even in good times, people change jobs, on average, four times during their working lives. People who have moved jobs should beware the insurance industry's latest hard sell — the pension transfer plan.

Insurance salesmen are persuading people to collect their pension contributions from previous employers and put these transfer values into personal pension policies. Such transfer values have become big business for insurance companies. Scottish Amicable, for example, reported that it received nearly £90 million in transfer values last year. Maurice Paterson, deputy managing director, said: "The transfer value market remains buoyant and we continue to see this as a major business area in 1992."

However, even in the industry, there is some disquiet

about the frequency with which transfers are being recommended to people who would be better off leaving their pension contributions with their ex-employer.

Barry Chambers, marketing manager of Family Assurance, which has set up a transfer advisory service, said: "We have had a considerable number of enquiries from people who have already made a transfer wanting to know if they have done the right thing. Unfortunately, many of them have been wrongly advised. Some were ex-public employees whose pension benefits were indexed. No personal pension can provide that kind of guarantee. Others were within five or six years of retirement, which is a very short time in which to make up the initial charges deducted from the personal pension plan."

Mr Chambers added: "Of

those who haven't yet transferred, when they approach us for advice, we have found that around 50 per cent should definitely not do so."

The reason that so many people are being persuaded to take transfer values is that they are being shown projections which indicate that a personal pension will give them a considerably higher pension at retirement than their old scheme.

One broker, for example, quotes the example of a woman, aged 31, who could end up with a personal pension of £7,870 per annum against the £4,952 she can expect from her ex-employer. Or a man, aged 46, who might receive £55,000 from a personal pension at 60 compared with £31,000 from his old company scheme.

The snag with these comparisons, however, is that it is assumed that an individual's

personal pension plan will grow at 13 per cent a year. In practice, the actual rate of growth will depend on investment conditions and the results achieved by the personal pension provider. They could be very different.

Most transfer values are being put into unit-linked personal pension contracts. Figures for managed pension funds over the past ten years, from Planned Savings Data Service, show that while the average gain was just more than 14 per cent a year, the worst performer achieved growth of less than 9 per cent a year.

Many investment commentators have warned that future investment conditions are likely to be less favourable than they have been over the past ten years.

The deferred pension paid by a previous employer, on the other hand, if it is a final



comparable basis. Apart from the increases a company scheme may provide, there are also the widow's or widower's pensions to be taken into account. The amount of pension you can buy with a personal pension cannot be predicted accurately anyway, as it will depend on annuity rates at the time.

For some people, however, a transfer might be advantageous if the scheme of the former employer is clearly a poor one — for example, if it is a money purchase scheme invested with an insurer that has a poor performance record, or has been less than generous with the increases given to pensioners. However, Mr Key pointed out that if an employee's previous pension fund has a surplus he or she would be well advised to wait a while before taking a transfer value. In the next year or two, it is expected that such companies will be forced to distribute these surpluses to the members.

Young employees, who have only a small amount with an ex-employer that they fear they might lose touch with by the time they reach retirement, might find a transfer to a personal pension convenient.

FIDELITY announced this week that it would accept personal equity plan applications for the 1992-3 Pep year as well as the 1991-2 year ending on April 5. There will be a 1 per cent discount for each Pep set up under this

Double Pep scheme. The cash for the next Pep year will be held in Fidelity's cash unit trust until the plan is set up after April 5.

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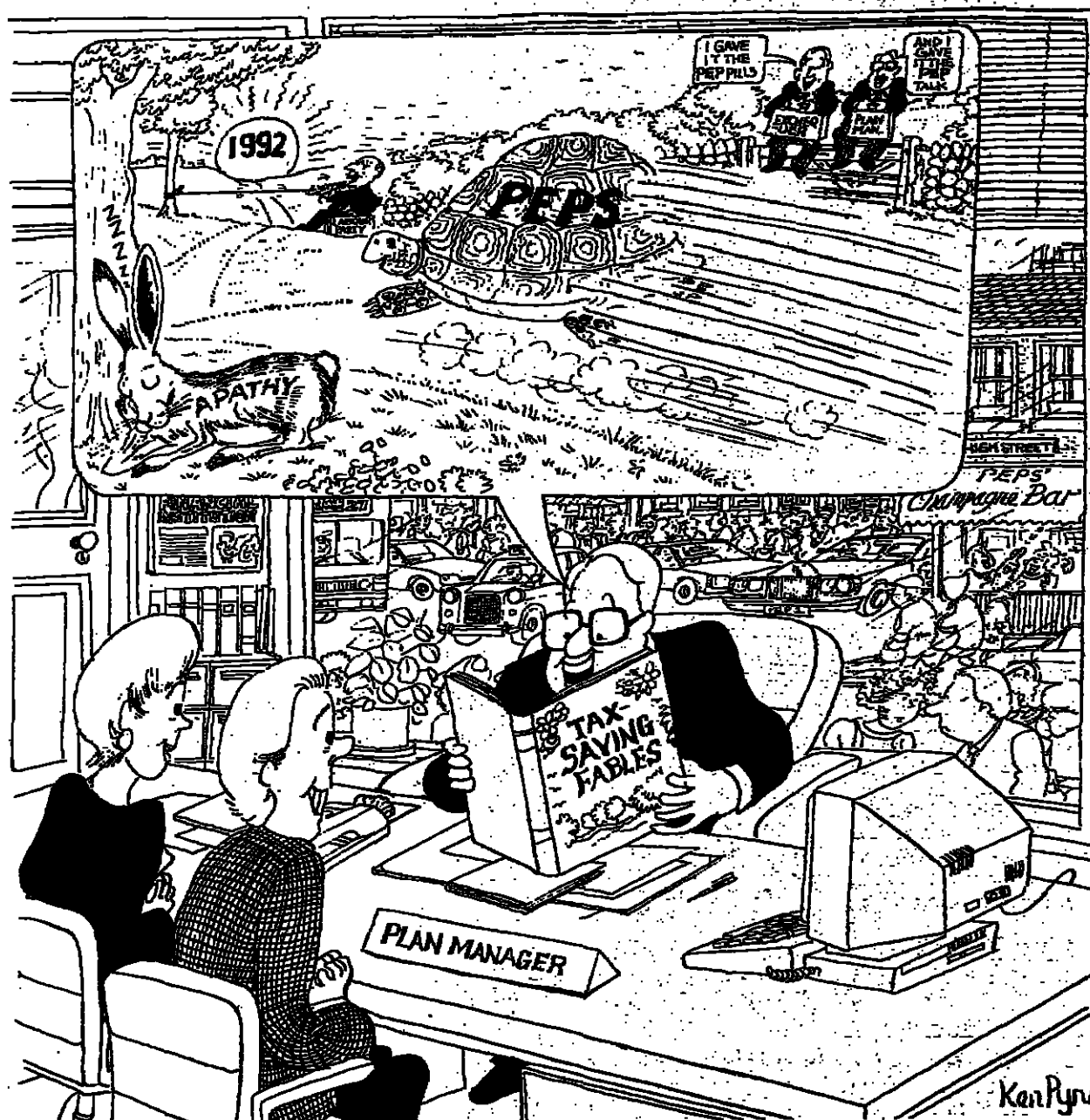
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Year of promise for a slow starter



Christine Whelan explains why Peps could be money-makers, whichever party wins the election

benefiting a small number of people," says Keith Crowley, of Invesco MIM, one of the biggest PEP managers. "Now they could see their potential as a mass-market product."

The number of Peps taken out leapt from 120,000 in 1988 to 580,000 in 1989 and the first quarter of 1990, while unit trusts' share of PEP holdings by value also increased from 13 per cent to 31 per cent.

The profile of PEP investors also showed a wider appeal

and increase their share of the market.

Instead, Norman Lamont, the chancellor, announced the extra £3,000 allowance for single-company Peps. This was a radical move, indicating that the government wishes to see Peps return to their original purpose of channelling British savings into the British industry.

PEP enthusiasts believe, however, that the case for investing in Peps this year is stronger than ever.

and new rules allowing European Community company shares to qualify for PEP holdings, the choice of PEP plans is wider than ever and is likely to increase before April as more companies jump on the bandwagon.

The large unit trust group M&G, for example, which raised £122 million in Peps last year by launching a new-lease investment trust, intends to repeat this in March with an "investment" trust specialising in recovery situations, where M&G has a strong track record.

Some European Peps are already on the market, based on unit trusts that have a good record of investing in European markets. Since January 2 there has also been a flood of SCFs, sponsored either by blue-chip companies for investments in their own shares or by third-party managers offering a choice of shares.

With such an array on offer, the investors' biggest problem is how to choose the right plan. This problem is made more difficult by the lack of any industry-wide standard for comparing performance and charges.

For example, a general PEP containing unit trusts and shares will attract initial and annual charges on the unit trust element, expressed as a percentage of the investment, plus brokerage charges on the shares, expressed in cash terms. Performance also can be measured only by splitting the PEP into its constituent parts, and even then it will vary from plan to plan depending on the amount and timing of contributions.

Any tax-free scheme carries a danger that the tax tail will wag the investment dog, but tax-free status does not guarantee good performance, as some PEP holders have found to their cost. This year investors should be especially wary and not be panicked into a PEP if the underlying investment is not right.

For investors with shares who wish to shelter them, or for taxpayers who are considering equity investments, the PEP this year looks more attractive than ever.

©The author is the editor of Moneywise



The PEP began as an ideological twinkle in the 1986 Budget of Nigel Lawson, left. As the offspring of privatisation, it was conceived to encourage people to invest in British industry

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society, one of the first and still among the biggest PEP providers, says more than 75 per cent of its PEP holders are basic-rate taxpayers, and include many blue-collar employees.

The rapid growth of Peps was not without setbacks, however. Administration systems in some companies could not handle the flood of applications and did not keep adequate records of every client's portfolio. Inro, the regulatory body, fined Confederation, Hill Samuel, Invesco MIM and Mercury Asset Management for breaching the rules.

These problems were soon solved, but Peps still have their critics, who say income tax savings, especially on growth Peps, where dividends are low, are small and can be wiped out by high charges. The critics argue that the capital gains tax exemption benefits only wealthy investors, who already use their £5,500 annual allowance. They say tax carrots should not be used to tempt small investors into risky equity investments.

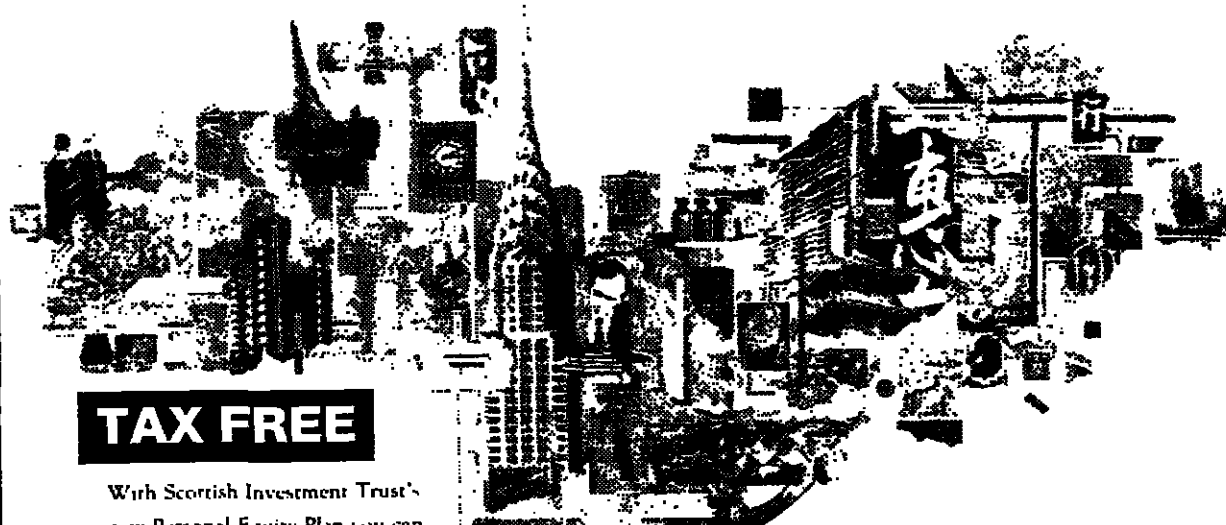
Before the 1991 Budget, the unit trust industry lobbied to have the £3,000 limit on unit trust-only Peps raised to £6,000, on the grounds that it would reduce risk for invest-

By acting quickly at the turn of the tax year, a married couple can shelter up to £36,000 of investments from income tax, capital gains tax and the outcome of the general election. The argument is that even if investors are not now subject to capital gains tax, this concession is likely to become more valuable the longer the investment is held in a PEP. If Labour take power, the plans to raise higher-rate income tax make an income tax-free investment more attractive.

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*figure calculated to include gross dividends reinvested for the 15 years to 31 October 1991. Source: Macquarie Ltd

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Look before you buy a plan

The sales pressure is on, writes
Jon Ashworth, but the expert
advises investors to be cautious

Newspapers and billboards will soon be screaming with slogans: Buy now! Take out a PEP before it is too late. Call it election fever if you will, but PEP companies are intensifying efforts to make investors buy while they can. Using the threat that a Labour government might ban all new PEPs, they hope to encourage savants to move their money from the building society to the stock market with a tax-free wrapping.

They could be right but the worst thing an investor can do is to rush. More than 400 PEPs are now available compared with a handful when the plans were introduced in 1987, and performance varies tremendously.

"It is very difficult for the investing public to know what they are letting themselves in for," says John Spiers, the editor of *Best PEP Selections*, who probably knows as much about PEPs as anybody. "You have got to look beyond the marketing hyperbole in any of these launches to see really what you are being sold."

Mr Spiers, who charts the fortunes of different plans for financial advisers and private investors, says pressure to buy is stronger now than ever.

"Labour's PEPs policy is not clear, but there is little doubt that the tax breaks for new investors will be scrapped," he says. "That is why it is such an incredibly strong selling point at the moment. Not only have you got the 'buy now while stocks last' philosophy, but you have also got the fact that the tax benefits you can see there today could be worth an awful lot more if Labour's tax regime is imposed."

Income tax could hit 59 per cent and the capital gains threshold could fall to £1,000, so the case for using PEPs as a first step into stocks is compelling. Few advisers have missed the point, and some imminent PEP launches will fuel the fire.

The difficulty is deciding which PEPs are worth choosing. Illustrations of "spectacular" performance can be misleading, and Mr Spiers urges caution. A fund that did superbly four years ago

may be a disaster now, but selective use of statistics can disguise this. The choice of fund manager is also important.

"Look beyond the statistics at what is happening at that group," Mr Spiers says. "Have there been personnel changes? Is it a team effort, or is one person running it? If that person leaves, you need to look carefully at whether to stay with that fund."

Mr Spiers has all the information at his fingertips but even he can get things wrong. For two years he has recommended the Fidelity Special Situations unit trust, a fund that performed brilliantly in its time but has become one of the worst performers. "It is the same manager but he has picked quite a few companies that have gone bust," Mr Spiers says. "Fortunately, his shares portfolio in the PEP has been outstanding, so the PEP's overall result is not bad."

The key for private investors, is to take a long-term view. During three years, or more, shares are almost certain to outperform a typical bank or building society account. Since the beginning of 1987, the FT All-Share index has gained 36 per cent with income reinvested.

Mr Spiers says: "Any manager will have had patches, but if his long-term record is good, I think you can draw some comfort during these bad periods. He will recover it in due course and have a spectacular year, which will regain your losses."

"The important thing is to spend a lot of time before you make your investment decision, and consider all the options open to you before you decide which management group to go with."

"About £3.5 billion have been invested in PEPs since they were introduced in the 1987 Budget, but the plans got off to a shaky start. An easing of rules in 1989 triggered a new wave of enthusiasm. As a result £1.5 billion were invested in the 1989-90 tax year and £2 billion in 1990-1. This year is almost certain to set a record."



Editor with a view: "Look beyond the marketing hyperbole to see what you are being sold," John Spiers says

The prospects for equity investment appear good. Mr Spiers says, but convincing investors is no easy task. He says: "Today it is quite difficult to find people in pubs or clubs talking about how successful their equity investment has been because during the past three years most equity funds have underperformed a building society deposit account. The wise thing has been to keep your money on deposit."

"However, that is looking backwards. You must look forwards. The indicators are that equity investment at today's values looks attractive, but that is always the most difficult time to encourage people to take advantage."

The choice of plan is determined by the basic principles of financial planning. Investors have to

decide on their investment requirements. A high-income PEP specialising in income share investment trusts may be a good choice for low-risk investors. For the more adventurous, a special situations or recovery trust may be a better choice.

Choosing a self-select PEP often comes down to the level of the charges. The range of share available is also important, and some plans allow investors to deal only once a month, so the timing of a sale or purchase is far more speculative.

Potential investors have always been concerned about the level of charges. Mr Spiers agrees that charges were high initially but says they are no longer the issue they were. "Since the rules were eased in 1989 charges have come down to a level

where in the majority of cases they are no longer a cause for concern," he says.

Charges are often the deciding factor in the case of self-select PEPs, in which investors are given a choice over the shares in their portfolio.

Investors should, however, be aware of the range of shares that may be included and watch out for restrictions on dealing. Mr Spiers says: "As long as the plan manager does not place some great restrictions on you in terms of the sort of shares you can buy or the date on which you can deal, then it really just comes down to charging."

Lloyds Bank offers one of the cheapest self-select but the list of shares is restricted to about 100 stocks. On top of this, investors must deal on a

specified date every month to benefit from the cheapest rates — an arrangement that may expose them to sudden movements in share prices."

The Alliance Trust is also good value, but the shares list is restricted and the first £900 of an investment must be channelled into an Alliance investment trust.

The scepticism with which the arrival of PEPs was greeted has long disappeared, and any serious investor should give them careful consideration. Mr Spiers agrees: "The moral of the story is that being able to invest onshore in a tax-free environment is an exceptional opportunity, and no matter how big you are as an investor, the allowances you are getting at the moment over a period of just a few years will build up to being a significant sum."



Labour's eyes on PEPs: will they call a sudden halt?

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1985	£196,514	£6,800
1990	£407,828	£8,989
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سكوت فيل

How to find winners

The comment that "past performance is no guarantee to future returns" is now a familiar part of the marketing literature for financial products.

Yet in spite of the regulators' desire to steer people away from choosing investment products on the basis of past performance, investors are still interested in performance tables and statistics.

Pep performance is, however, notoriously difficult to monitor, and investors seeking this kind of information could be disappointed. Many of the usual providers of statistical information give Peps a fairly wide berth.

Some, such as Micropal, can provide figures on the performance of the unit trusts and investment trusts that are linked to Peps. Micropal does this by calculating the perfor-

Performance is not always indicated by statistics.
Hazel Spink advises investors on assessing funds

formance of a trust with gross income reinvested. Information on full Peps, which contain an element of investment into direct equities, seems impossible to find. Pep providers say nobody can monitor the performance of full Peps because the basket of shares they hold on investors' behalf often changes.

A Micropal executive says: "It is the variety of Peps that makes them difficult to monitor. If investments within a Pep remained static, it would be a simple matter, but because switches can be made they are administratively difficult to monitor." Micropal's figures do show, however, that investors

should not always pick a Pep simply because they are familiar with the investment group. Many companies with top-performing unit trusts or investment trusts also have poor performers in their stable of funds.

For example, over one year to January 6, Save & Prosper's American Smaller Companies was up more than 46 per cent, making it third out of 316 funds. Its Energy Industries fund was down 13.3 per cent and was last. So investors must discover not only which investment groups have good track records but also in which sectors they are strongest.

The top ten unit trusts and

investment trusts over five years were Newton Income (up 247.69 per cent), Framlington's New Throgmorton Income (up 221.2 per cent), Guinness Mahon High Income (up 207.07 per cent), Rights & Issues Income (up 198.98 per cent), Rights & Issues Capital (up 187.93 per cent), Touche Rennehan City of London (up 187.12 per cent), Moorgate (up 173.02 per cent), Guinness Mahon's Temple Bar (up 169.98 per cent), Framlington's Throgmorton Dual Income (up 168.95 per cent) and Eagle Star's UK High Income (up 164.89 per cent).

The worst over the same period were S&P Gold Explo-

ration (down 14.38 per cent), Invesco MIM'S Drayton English & International (down 8.54 per cent), Trust of Property Shares (down 3.9 per cent), Allied Dunbar Second Smaller Companies (up 7.57 per cent), Framlington's Throgmorton Trust (up 14.89 per cent), S&P Japan Growth (up 24.54 per cent), Framlington's New Throgmorton Capital (up 28.63 per cent), S&P European Growth (up 28.84 per cent) and S&P Special Situations (up 28.97 per cent).

For the sake of comparison, over five years to October 31 1991, £100 invested in a high-interest building society account would be worth £156.40 (an increase of 56.4 per cent). Over the same period, the Retail Prices Index was up 36.9 per cent and the FTA-A11 Share Index was up 80.6 per cent.

Although the top-performing funds easily outperformed building societies, some of the worst-performing funds lagged far behind, showing the importance of the right investment decision.

Among the best-performing unit trusts over three years were Newton Income, Gartmore British Growth, and Schroder Enterprise. Some of the best-performing investment trusts included TR City of London and Durdin Income Growth.

Over one year the Bishopsgate Pep, Britannia Life American Growth and S&P Smaller Companies performed well.

Bottom of the table were S&P Energy Industries, Scottish Amicable Equity Strategy and Abtrust European.

Although there are no industry-wide figures for the performance of full Peps, with an equity element, a few companies give statistics for their own Peps. One such company, Schroder Unit Trusts, offers three Pep portfolios - growth, income with interest and dividends reinvested, and income without reinvestment.



Positive position: "We entered the market late. We are determined to improve this year," Bridget Cleverly says

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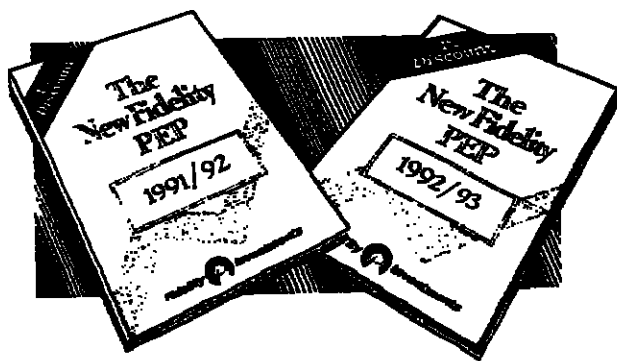
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CCF Sel UK Smaller Cos	£139.86
Royal Life UK Emerging Cos	£135.15
S&P New Technology	£134.17
S&P US Grth Capital House	£132.19
Smaller Cos	£131.65
Newton General Buckmaster Smaller Cos	£130.61
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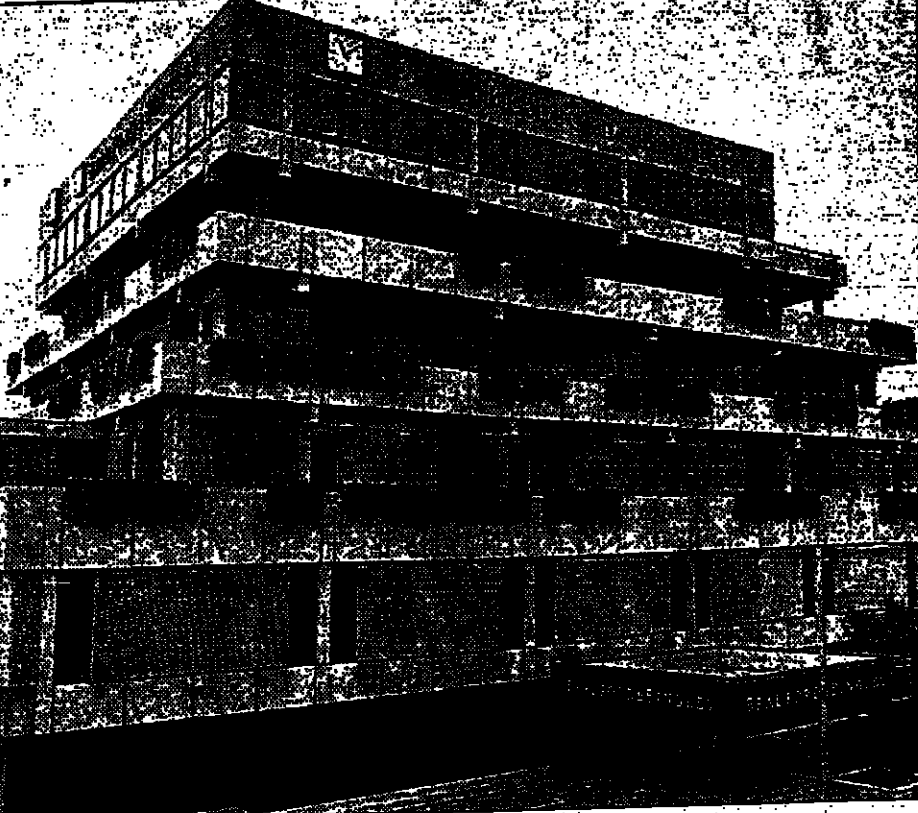
Top ten over three years, Jan 2, 1989, to Jan 6, 1992

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Gartmore British Grth	£164.75
Schroder Enterprise	£164.68
Mercury British Blue Chip	£163.50
Prov Capitol Emerging Asia	£162.67
Pembroke	£162.13
Martin Currie Internat Grth	£161.78
S&P American Smaller Cos	£161.54
S&P South East Asia Grth	£159.52

Top ten over five years, Jan 1, 1987, to Jan 6, 1992

Newton Income	£347.89
Guinness Mahon High Income	£307.07
Eagle Star UK High Income	£284.89
Sun Life Mgd Income and Grth	£258.38
Grofund Equity	£253.24
CU Equity Income	£252.50
Buckmaster Income	£251.54
Pembroke	£250.57
Lazard UK Income	£249.28
Dunedin Income	£243.22

Source: Micropal



Wide-ranging: Bradford & Bingley supplies plans for more than 50 companies

The corporate way to invest in shares

INVESTORS who want to invest in shares through the tax shelter of a Pep may be fortunate enough to find their preferred company offers the corporate version.

Corporate Peps have the same tax advantages as ordinary ones - freedom from capital gains tax and income tax on dividends - and the same 55,000 limit. The difference is that they invest in only one company.

Corporate Peps can be established for any UK company quoted on the stock exchange and look likely to become more available to investors. Many building societies intend to offer plan managing services on an execution-only basis. The Bradford & Bingley Building Society has offered a corporate Pep service since 1988 and now supplies plans for 54 companies, including BAT, BP, Glaxo and ICI. Mark Banks, the society's special schemes brand manager, says Bradford & Bingley already has 20,000 corporate Pep plan holders on its books.

He believes the demand for these investments will grow in 1992, with investors' increasing awareness of the Pep's tax advantages.

He says: "Judging by public reaction, interest in corporate Peps has taken a big leap. Going on current enquiries, we are looking to take 25,000 plans this year."

Companies have wanted to sponsor corporate Peps because the investments help

them to attract more smaller investors, particularly employees. A more diverse base of shareholders will make the company more difficult to take over, and employees are especially likely to remain loyal to management. Many corporate Peps originated as extensions to existing employee share ownership schemes. Companies soon realised that the same vehicle could be offered to other non-employee shareholders.

Charges on corporate Peps are usually lower than on

a way as to avoid a bid-offer spread. However, this could produce a liability to capital gains tax if the shares were originally acquired at a much cheaper price.

In the last Budget Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, introduced the single-company Pep (SCP), which tackles this problem for employees. The SCP, which has a lower investment maximum of £3,000, can accept transfers of existing shareholdings directly from all employee share schemes for hed-and-breakfasting and thereby eliminating capital gains tax. The SCP innovation has also allowed any investors to make a total Pep investment of £9,000 in any one year. This is because an SCP can be held alongside a standard Pep or even another corporate Pep. The obvious disadvantage of corporate Peps is that investors may be putting all their eggs in one basket. Most investors should perhaps consider a corporate Pep or an SCP only if they have established a well spread portfolio of other investments. This may be less true for employee investors who have other reasons to hold the shares, such as identity with their employer.

Furthermore, investors who already own more than £3,000 of a single stock can make use of the Pep tax benefits.



Help for employees: Norman Lamont

standard Peps run by investment managers. With only one share they are simpler and therefore cheaper to administer.

One main disadvantage of corporate Peps is that investors cannot transfer shares they already hold into the plan. Even this can be overcome by "hed-and-breakfasting" - selling the shares and immediately repurchasing them through the Pep in such

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Bonus for the staff



The people whom the rules will help most: office staff and other employees may switch shares and avoid costs

New rules on Peps this year will probably benefit employees most, reports Christine Whelan

Employees are likely to be the main beneficiaries of the new PEP rules, which came into effect on January 2. Although all investors can take out new-style single-company Peps (SCPs), employees whose companies offer share-save or profit-sharing schemes receive tax-saving and cost-saving benefits.

Employees of private companies or non-European companies can also profit from Peps for the first time.

SCPs, which were announced in the 1991 Budget, allow investors to invest an extra £3,000 in a tax year in the shares of a single company, in addition to the £6,000 allowed in a general PEP. It was already possible to invest £6,000 annually.

Corporate PEP contributions can be made only in cash, however, and this means that investors wishing to transfer shares into a PEP have to "bed-and-breakfast" them — selling them and repurchasing them through the PEP in a way that avoids a bid-offer spread. This incurs dealing costs and possible capital gains tax liability.

These rules apply to ordinary investors who take out SCPs, but for employees the rule is waived if shares are transferred from an approved employee share scheme, such as a save-as-you-earn scheme through a bank or building society or a profit-share scheme through a company

trust. The shares must be transferred within 90 days of leaving the employee share scheme, and there is only one chance to do so, although if the scheme matures at the end of this tax year, an employee could transfer £3,000 worth of shares into a 1991-2 SCP and £3,000 worth into a 1992-3 SCP, within the 90-day limit.

This concession is potentially valuable, because many employees who take up their option to buy shares at a strike price fixed five or seven years previously, under a share save scheme find they have gained a considerable sum. The chance to shelter at least some of those gains from tax at little or no cost is a further bonus.

Shares can be transferred into an SCP sponsored by the employee's company or by any inland revenue-approved manager. From the employee's point of view, third-party managers are unlikely to be able to compete on cost with a company SCP. The rules on qualifying SCP holdings have also been relaxed for employee share schemes. Private company and non-European company shares may also be transferred into an SCP, a concession that may help private company employees whose company is subsequently floated.

Ordinary investors have potentially less to gain from SCPs if they are transferring shares rather than investing cash. For them too, company-sponsored SCPs are likely to be better value than investing cash. For them too, company-sponsored SCPs are likely to be better value than plans managed by a third party, assuming that the company in which they wish to invest sponsors its own PEP.

This should not worry FTSE-100 investors, as most blue chips either have, or intend to have, their own SCP. There is a case, however, for investing through an outside manager's SCP if the share's growth or yield potential is high enough to offset the management fees, and if the share is intended to be a long-term hold.

So far, unit trust houses have been slow to offer SCPs as they cannot claim added value for their fund management skills. Stockbrokers are more likely to offer low-cost terms, along with the high street PEP specialists. National Westminster, Lloyds, Bank of Scotland and Bradford & Bingley.

Investors choosing a third-party manager can also switch their SCP share without tax penalty during the year if they feel they have picked a dud. Company-sponsored SCPs usually allow only withdrawals.

New-issue shares, except investment trusts, can also be transferred into an SCP without dealing costs within 42 days of issue, so quick-acting buyers of BT shares could have placed up to £3,000 of the partly paid shares into an SCP by January 20. Putting partly paid shares into an SCP has implications for the further instalments, however, so take advice before any new issue or privatisation.

This year's other change in PEP rules extends the range of qualifying shares to European Community company shares, and unit trusts or investment trusts that are 50 per cent or more invested in EC countries.

Nobody seems to think PEPs give a viable direct route into EC equities, however. The difficulties of establishing qualifying status and reclaiming withholding tax are variously described as "mind-boggling" and "a nightmare" by PEP managers. However, for unit trust managers with a good European track record, such as Fidelity, the concession is a useful chance to widen the range of Peps on offer.



In line for the first BT shares: new-issue shares may now be transferred into an SCP without dealing costs

Made for higher-rate taxpayers

SHOULD you invest in Peps now, as their future is under threat if Labour win the general election?

Is it worth investing up to £9,000 in equity-based investments in this financial year, and then possibly up to £9,000 more on April 6, if Labour could stop future contributions to Peps or the Conservatives could cut income and capital gains taxation so that the tax advantages are reduced?

There is one golden rule: do not let the tax tail wag the investment dog. If you are risk-averse, dislike equity investment, are terrified that you could suffer capital loss because of stock market fluctuations, horrified at the thought that your investments are registered in somebody else's name, or have a fundamental objection to up-front initial charges, a PEP is probably not for you.

Put your money instead into a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) and relax, knowing your capital is safe and your income is tax-free so long as you last the five-year course. There are no up-front charges and any charges on income are claimed to be low and generally hidden from you. If, however, you can accept the investment risks, lack of direct ownership, and the higher charges compared with other forms of equity investment, is a PEP better than direct investment into equities or through investment trusts or unit trusts? If you are a short-term investor, a PEP is probably not better. The extra charges on Peps could well negate any short-term tax savings on dividend income or capital gains — that is, if you or the PEP manager achieve any. If you achieve no savings, carried forward PEP losses are useless for tax purposes. For the longer-term investor, much depends on tax profile and type of investment profits. A basic-rate taxpayer, without a large

share portfolio, is unlikely to generate sufficient capital gains every year, taking into account annual exemptions, to take full advantage of the PEP gains tax exemption. If, however, the PEP investment is geared to a high-yielding investment, the tax saved on dividend income can make the exercise worthwhile, even if tax rates are lowered by the Conservatives or future PEP investments are banned by Labour.

Peps are a must for higher-rate taxpayers, particularly those with large equity portfolios, which already use up annual capital gains tax allowances. Saving tax at 40 per cent on all income and capital gains derived from a total possible maximum PEP investment of £18,000 before the next general election has to be the overriding argument to invest in equities through a PEP.



Michael Bryant: good decision whichever party wins

Michael Bryant is the marketing director of Rathbone Brothers. The author is the marketing director of Rathbone Brothers.



Risks
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Fearing for discounts: Peter Jeffreys



Investors warned: James de Saumarez

Risks of placing all your trust in tax benefits

Most activity in the Peps market during 1991 centred on the discovery of a tax loophole that allowed the full £6,000 PEP allowance to be invested in a new investment trust.

M&G was the first investment group to exploit this loophole, spending almost £2 million in promoting the launch of its first PEP-able investment trust, the Income Investment Trust.

The new trust attracted £246.5 million in its launch period, about £122 million of which went into Peps. So successful was last year's launch that M&G is to launch a second investment trust, the Recovery Investment Trust, next month.

This time, the company is expected to spend about £3 million advertising the new trust. National and trade press advertisements will be supported by a £500,000 television campaign.

About 20 investment trusts were launched during 1991, raising about £764.2 million. More than half of these trusts were linked to Peps, although unfortunately there are no industry figures to show how much of the money raised actually went into Peps. Peps also provided a much needed fillip to the beleaguered unit trust industry last year.

At best, world stock markets could be described as volatile during 1991, and selling equity-based products was not easy. Yet during the first nine months of 1991, net new investment in unit trust Peps topped the figure for the whole of 1990, with £19.7 million of unit trust Peps sold by September, compared with £500 million for the whole of 1990.

"Peps have undoubtedly boosted sales of investment trusts and unit trusts," says Robin Bloor, a director of the financial advisers Chase De Vere. "Many investors are buying Peps because they offer tax-free investment rather

The discovery of a legal loophole led to an increase in business last year, Hazel Spink reports

or than because they want an equity-related investment. "It is undoubtedly true that Peps have been an important and valuable asset to unit trust groups."

Inland Revenue statistics showed that in 1990-1, 500,000 Peps were taken out, amounting to £1.6 billion. In April 1991, the month for which the most up-to-date figures available, 32 per cent of this was invested in unit trusts, 4 per cent in investment trusts and 54 per cent in shares. The balance was held in cash.

The spate of investment trust launches has led to renewed calls for a relaxation of the PEP rules so that the full PEP allowance can be invested in a unit trust or investment trust.

At present, only £3,000 can be invested in a collective investment scheme. "Although I think this loophole is a good thing, it is unfair of the government to limit the amount that can be invested in an investment trust or unit trust," says James de Saumarez, the managing director of Touche

Remnant Investment Trust



Robin Bloor: Peps assets

Management. Concern has also been expressed within the investment industry about the dangers of investing in trusts simply to invest the full £6,000 PEP allowance in a collective investment scheme, rather than in direct equities.

"I am concerned that investors know what they are buying," Mr de Saumarez says. "Split capital investment trusts, for example, are sophisticated vehicles and investors need to be clear about which type of shares they are buying."

A spokesman for the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), the investment trust industry's trade association, says: "Generally, we are pleased to see the growing number of investment trust launches."

"But we would advise people not to invest in investment trusts simply to get the full £6,000 of a PEP invested in a collective scheme."

"We would also advise investors to look at each trust on its merits and decide whether it is a good trust."

Some observers are worried about the effects on the investment trust industry of insurance companies flooding the market with new launches.

"As a generalisation, at the end of 1991, discounts on investment trusts, for the industry as a whole, had narrowed," says Peter Jeffreys, the managing director of Fund Research, the unit trust and investment trust monitoring company.

"This enhances performance. If the insurance companies jump on the bandwagon and launch lots of new investment trusts, the discount will come under pressure."

Investment trusts are publicly quoted companies that invest in the shares of other companies. The value of an investment trust's shares depends not only on the value of the underlying assets but also on supply and demand for the shares.

If an investment trust's shares are in demand, the price is pushed up, regardless of stock market movements and the value of the underlying shares. Likewise, if they are not in demand, the share price falls.

Investment trust shares can trade at either a discount or a premium to the value of the underlying assets, known as net asset value or NAV. This means they are either cheaper or more expensive than the cost of buying the shares on the open market.

At the moment, investment trusts are generally trading at a discount to the value of the underlying assets. This is good if you are buying, but obviously not so good if you are holding the trusts or thinking of selling.

If many investment trusts are launched, supply could outstrip demand and share prices could fall. This means the difference between the net asset value and the price of the investment trust shares would widen.

If the discount widens after investors have bought their shares, they may not get as much for them when they sell as they paid for them.

This could be avoided if demand continues to grow as the number of investment trusts increases.

One thing that looks certain, unless there is a change of government policy, is that the future of Peps looks secure. From a shaky start in 1987, they have gone from strength to strength. Although in 1988 only 120 Peps were sold amounting to £200 million, by 1990-1 this had grown to 500 plans, representing £1.6 billion of investment.

Count the cost of investment

Assessing the price that you pay for your Peps is important

FOR many investors, Peps certainly deserve serious consideration as part of a balanced portfolio. There is, however, a school of thought that the cost structure can erode the tax savings, so that Peps are useful only for investors who pay higher rate income tax or capital gains tax.

In practice, many other aspects should be looked at before charges are considered. First, investors must decide whether they want to invest in shares with inherent risk and reward factors. If they do, which instruments and what geographical investment exposure are required — from a single share to an international spread of equities and unit trusts and investment trusts?

The next decision has to be between income and growth. Usually tax efficiency will be greatest from reinvested income. Investors also have to accept that equity investment should be long-term.

Prospective investors then have to choose a registered scheme manager with the required expertise and experience, and, of course, a record of quality management performance and a long-term commitment to looking after clients.

Only then do investors have to look at charges. These cover administration, setting-up, management, reporting and compliance expenses, and they normally fall into three categories: initial, annual and dealing.

There may be costs to cover other optional items.

There is no such thing as an average charge. Usually, you get what you pay for. Most managers, however, know that their charging structure will be a consideration and they will try to keep charges low or provide added value elsewhere.

A comparison of the cost of a PEP with the short-term tax savings usually depends on the performance achieved. However, if investors have decided on equities to achieve a diversified portfolio, a PEP facility added at small cost makes it an attractive investment vehicle for many people. This is particularly true of the first £6,000 that may be invested into a general PEP.

However, investing £3,000 in a single-company PEP (SCP), which was permitted from January 1, would be like putting a lot of eggs in one basket for many investors. A cautious approach to the SCP would be advisable.

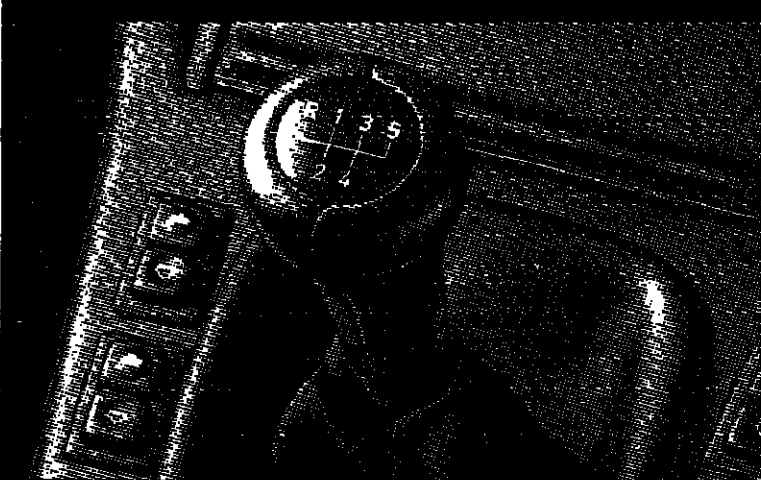
The real advantage of a PEP is the totally tax-free status it gives the underlying investments. Income from dividends is untaxed and there is no capital gains tax on the profits.

The costs of all 500 PEP schemes are in *Chase de Vere's PEP Guide* (£8.95), which you can obtain by telephoning 071-404 5766.

ROBIN BLOOR

• The author is a director of Chase de Vere Investments

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Quarterback they used to call butterfingers

FROM SIMON BARNES
IN MINNEAPOLIS

MARK Rypien, quarterback of the Washington Redskins, has already achieved the impossible. In 1988, he went through Super Bowl week without giving a single interview. This is something I have never managed myself ("and do you see football as a threat to your life?"), and I don't even look like a player. It is an achievement not to be underestimated.

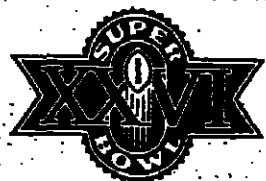
In 1988, Rypien was a nobody, a third-string quarterback, an understudy's understudy. He was the stuff from which underdogs are made. Injury-prone, mistake-prone, inconsistent.

But this season he has transformed himself into one of the best quarterbacks in the game. Most observers expect him to be the key player when the Redskins take on the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXVI here tomorrow.

It is an extraordinary translation. Rypien had developed a habit, rather like a golfer's yips, of dropping the ball. He fumbled six times in 1988 and 14 times in 1989. After 14, he was dropped. He spent two seasons injured, came back and hurt his shoulder, and last season he missed six weeks with a knee injury.

Whether these problems were mental or physical, it seemed obvious that Rypien was one of life's back-up quarterbacks; a pretty iffy one at that. He is now 29, and playing like a dream. Where did the turnaround come from?

"My old high school coach said that pressure was an opportunity to prove yourself," Rypien said. "The ability



to get in there and work harder has made me a better player? You see? He just did not allow any negative thoughts. He always had belief in himself.

Yup, we are deep in the all-American phenomenon of retrospective motivation. It is an individual version of the truism that victors always write the history-books.

"Why is it that we never hear about all the people who always believed in themselves?" and then got stuffed out of sight? What about all those people who never had a negative thought in their lives, and still plummeted to defeat and public humiliation?

This new mythology of phony sporting psychology gives athletes a useful wall to hide

behind. Self-analysis is often the very last thing these people want. You do not want to frighten off your success, after all.

"It's like a focus on a lens," Marv Levy, the coach for the opposition, said. "It's as if the whole game has come into sharp focus for Mark Rypien this season."

It is not possible to trace the real reason. But the water-shed decision is clear enough. Ask yourself this. If you were a professional also-ran, and you were offered a three-year contract worth \$2.4 million, what would you do?

Well, Rypien turned it down. "I was impressed by that," Joe Gibbs, the Redskins head coach, said. "He was saying 'I'm going to show you I can do this.' And he did."

Rypien accepted a one-year contract of "only" \$1.25 million, and no clauses about future employment. Inspired, perhaps by his own boldness in making this decision, he started the season with 11

consecutive wins, and took the Redskins to the Super Bowl. The next contract discussions will probably be talking about \$10 million.

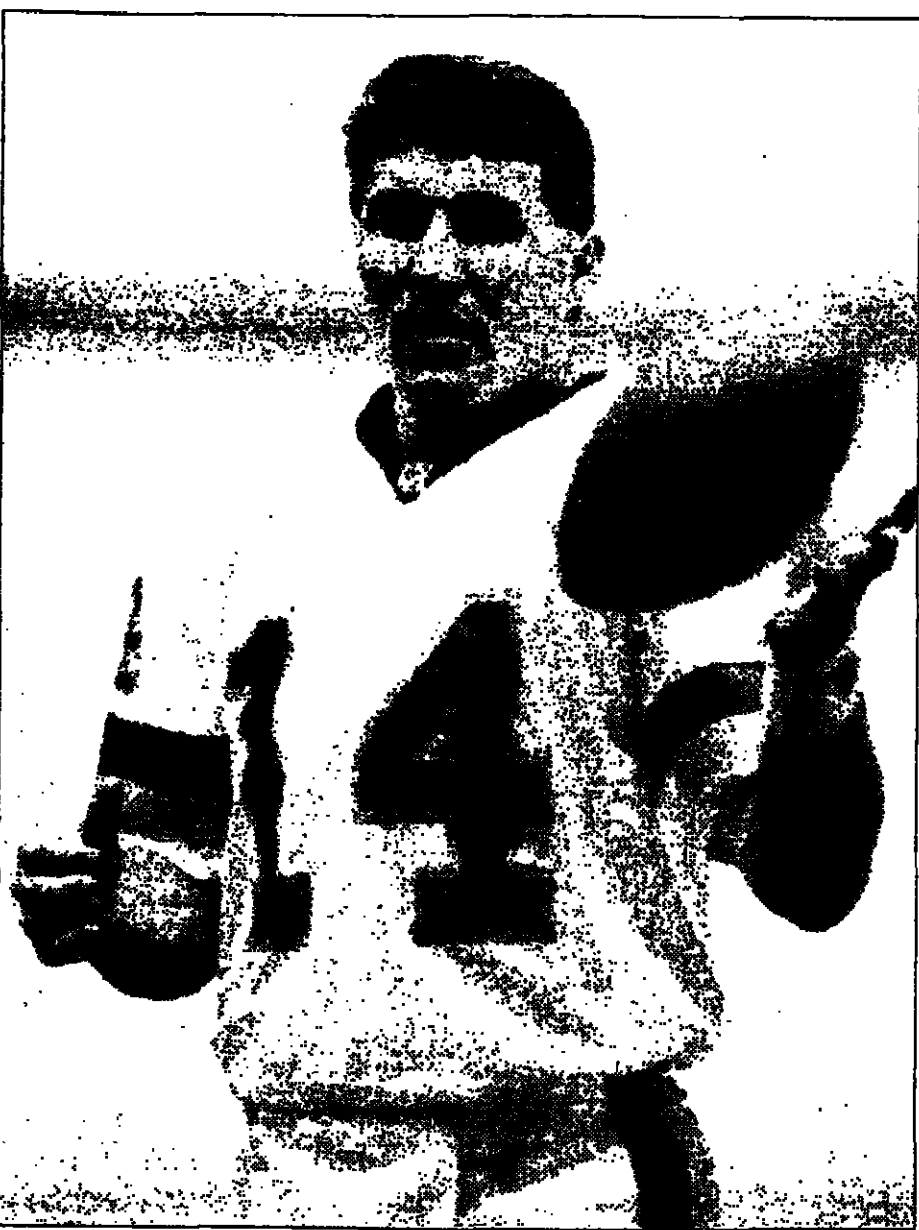
"I kind of saw the writing on the wall," Rypien said. "It was a make or break year for me." Rypien plays behind one of the best offensive lines in the business. They like to be called The Hogs, and they have consistently given Rypien the time and space to perform. A smart quarterback behind an impenetrable line is a potent combination.

He is effective rather than flashy. "He's always been a hard worker," Gibbs said. He worked to eradicate the butterfinger problems. Players would harass him and slap his wrist, a humiliating practice drill for someone trying to be a superstar.

"He isn't a pretty athlete," Gibbs said. "He's kind of big and clumsy. He's also kind of a genius. He has that great arm, he's tough, but the main thing is that he's so bright. Intelligent people walk a fine line in football. If you're smart, you're bored. Mark comes right up to that line, without crossing."

As back-handed compliments go, that one is pretty hard to beat.

Rypien's opposite number, Jim Kelly, leads a spectacular offense. I am sure he has never had a negative thought in his life, either. He is the most exciting player on either side. But traditionally, it is more humdrum virtues that win Super Bowls. One certainty. I will hear more about retrospective motivation ("I always believed in myself") after the game on Sunday.



Safe hands: Rypien, once a famous fumbler, is now the toast of Washington

FACTS

EVENT: Super Bowl XXVI, the championship game of the National Football League. Kick-off: 11.15pm (GMT). The winning team takes permanent possession of a Vince Lombardi Trophy.

PARTICIPANTS: Buffalo Bills v Washington Redskins. Buffalo (15 wins, three defeats) won the American Football Conference East division. In the playoffs they defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 37-14 and the Denver Broncos 10-7. Washington (15 wins, two defeats) won the National Football Conference East division. In the playoffs they beat the Atlanta Falcons 24-7 and the Detroit Lions 41-10.

VENUE: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis. Capacity: 65,000 (reports, all seats). Playing surface: AstroTurf. Second time the Super Bowl has been played in a football stadium.

TELEVISION: Coverage begins on Channel 4 at 10.45pm tomorrow.

COACHES: Buffalo: Marv Levy, aged 63, fifth full season, record with Bills: 61-33; losing coach in Super Bowl last year. Washington: Joe Gibbs, aged 51; eleventh season in charge, record with Redskins: 129-57, two wins in three Super Bowls.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The clubs have faced each other six times, starting in 1972. Washington winning four, Buffalo two. Most recent game, 1990 at Washington: Redskins 29, Buffalo 14.

STREAKS: Washington became the first club since 1963 to open with 11 wins. Buffalo won their first five. Buffalo have won their division four times running. The National Conference has claimed seven consecutive Super Bowls.

OFFICIALS: Seven regulate the game on the field, one video-replay official. AKA in the pressbox.

OVERTIME: The game will last at least 150 minutes. If the scores are level at full-time (60 minutes), the game will continue in "sudden death" overtime. The side that scores first - by touchdown, field goal or safety - will be the winner. After a three-minute intermission and regulation time, play will carry on by 15-minute periods, with two-minute breaks. Teams will change goals after each period.

COLOURS: Buffalo, designated the home team, will wear royal blue jerseys. Washington will wear white jerseys.

PAY DAY: Each player in the winning side will receive \$36,000 (about £13,800), each player in the losing side will take home \$18,000 (£3,945).

BETTING: American oddsmakers favour the Redskins by 10 points.

NEXT YEAR: Super Bowl XXVII at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California, January 31.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Victorians survive Irish test

BY MICHAEL STEVENSON

THE Victorian Schools side ended the Irish leg of their tour with two wins and two defeats. They did well to beat Campbell College, Belfast, 11-8, but perhaps underestimated the strength of Coleraine Academical Institute, fielding a team with several key players absent and lost 33-0.

They then went to Galway where they won 19-0 against Corribian. "Colts" and their last match was back in Dublin with a 16-6 loss to the Blackrock RFC under-19s.

Llandoverly College have enjoyed yet another successful season, winning 11 of 12 matches and scoring 598 points to 112. The only match they lost was to Millfield (15-12), and since the Christmas break they beat Ysgol Dyffryn Taf (14-9) and Tregh School (26-6) with Matthew Codd, their talented flanker, scoring three tries.

Their leading points scorer is Chris Atkinson, the stand-off half, with 128; their wing, Richard Carlick, scored 17 tries.

Ellesmere College won their final game when they defeated Liverpool College 26-8 to earn the enviable record of 12 wins from 14 matches, scoring 224 points to 80.

The Leys won 12 matches, losing three others in one hectic week. They were beaten by Felsted. Kent College in the Daily Mail Cup, and then by Bedford Modern, and must have felt considerable frustration with such a demanding workload. Matthew Coo, their stand-off half and captain, was the leading points scorer with 73; James Pinnington scored 11 tries.

Bishop's Stortford College won six matches, drew one and lost five. Their enterprising side registered good wins over Stamford (20-15), St Edmund's (28-8) and Ipswich but also gave a good account of themselves when defeated by Felsted (9-0) and St Joseph's, Ipswich (24-13). Bob Kistby, the first XV coach, also coaches the successful Hertfordshire side that won its five matches with a points tally of 105 scores to 21.

England's search for a national side at 18-group level has fallen victim to the cold weather. Midlands were due to play North today and London were due to meet South West tomorrow at Castlecroft, the youth centre in Wolverhampton, but the games have been rearranged for February 22 and 23.

Scotland have already played two matches at schools level, winning against Forth for the first time (10-6), but going down 24-15 to a bustling Welsh team at Neath with the Welsh scrum half, Jason Hewlett, showing class and assurance.

Edberg to meet Courier in final of Australian Open

Top seeds restore order

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

DESPITE the diversions of John McEnroe and the intrusion of several new faces, the form book held good in the end. Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier will meet in the final of the Australian Open tomorrow, the first time the top two seeds have justified their positions since Boris Becker beat Ivan Lendl to win the US Open title three years and nine grand slam tournaments ago.

Edberg yesterday proved too experienced for the young South African, Wayne Ferreira, who lost heart once he had lost two points to take the first set. Courier gained the upper hand, his combination of being the first player to reach the final of a grand slam tournament in the open era through a walkover. His opponent, Richard Krajicek, had to withdraw with a sore right shoulder.

While accepting his good fortune with grace, the American was not sure whether the plus of getting to his third grand slam final will outweigh the minus of not competing for four days.

"You'd like to be in a rhythm going into a final and this may deprive me of one match more to find that rhythm," he said.

Krajicek was a victim of his own success. Not expecting to go so far in the doubles - or in the singles, for that matter - the young Dutchman had already played 32 sets when

his serving arm, which had thundered 22 aces past Michael Stich, the German Wimbledon champion, cried enough.

The first sign of the problem emerged on Thursday when he had to default in the second set of his doubles quarter-final, and yesterday, after practising for half an hour, he was advised to rest for five days by a doctor.

As Pete Sampras pulled out before the tournament started, with the same complaint, and Stich and Guy Forget are suffering from tennis elbow, the wear and tear on the big servers is beginning to show already. And it is only January.

"I have only just stopped growing and my body is not yet 100 per cent strong," Krajicek said. "I have played every day since Wednesday and that is too much."

Not even his resident haptotherapist could ease the pain, which had shifted from shoulder to heart by the middle of the morning. "It was the chance of a lifetime to play a grand slam semi-final," he said. "I don't know if it will ever happen again."

Courier, for one, will not want any repeat of that September afternoon at Flushing Meadows, when he played the part of chief stooge in a production inspired and directed by Edberg and won just six games.

His one crumb of comfort was that no one could have done any better. Even the Swede, who is not given to overstatement, described the

performance as "a dream", and he is not anticipating a sequel. "It would be unrealistic to think that I could play like that again," he said. The American will be thankful for that small mercy, at least.

Like a soldier sauntering gently through a minefield, Courier must be wondering when the whole thing will explode in his face. He has played no one higher than Thomas Muster, ranked 35, and has dropped only one set during a trouble-free fortnight, one more than he lost in reaching the US Open final.

Fate does not generally allow such liberties, but the final promises a classic confrontation between attacker and defender, and after two lacklustre semi-finals, the Australian Open deserves a memorable finale.

With Krajicek's withdrawal, it was left to Ferreira to uphold the honour of the younger generation. He did



Krajicek: ruled out

so with courage, though without ever threatening to ruffle Edberg's feathers or quieten the chirping of his many supporters.

By the middle of the third set, the blue-and-yellow painted hordes had resorted to the Swedish wave, a variation on the usual theme in that only natives were allowed to take part. Their man had long since wrapped up the match, all at intents and purposes, though the fact that Ferreira had two points to break service in successive games in the final set will hearten Courier's supporters somewhat.

The match turned on the two points the unseeded South African had to take the first set. A backhand into the net and a sweet backhand volley by Edberg averted the moments of crisis and, his confidence restored, the world No. 1 sailed through the tie-break and away into the distance. "Once I got on top of him, I didn't have too much trouble," Edberg said.

Like Krajicek, though, Ferreira can be proud of what he has done this week, and he will know what to expect next time. Asked to name the winner, Ferreira plumped for Edberg. "Because he's always there." There was no possible argument with that.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Semi-finals: S. Edberg (Swe) bt W Ferreira (SA), 7-6, 6-1, 6-2; J Courier (US) wt R Krajicek (Neth), 6-1. Women's doubles: Semi-finals: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) and H Sukovic (CZ) bt P Shriver (US) and M Zvereva (CZ), 6-3, 6-3; M J Fernandez and J Garmion (US) bt S Rabe (US) and B Schutte (Neth), 6-2, 6-1. Mixed: Doubles: Semi-finals: T Woodbridge (Aus) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt D MacPherson and R McCallum (Aus), 6-2, 6-1; M Woodbridge and N Pietrangeli (Aus) bt S Davis and R White (US), 6-2, 6-1.

CYCLING

Young's chance falls away

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS Young, the bronze medal winner in this year's national cyclo-cross championship, after losing his 1991 title to David Baker, misses his last chance tomorrow for a race before the world professional championship at Leeds next weekend.

He has been forced to rest after injuring his left ankle in a fall two weeks ago and has pulled out of a leading race at Werzikon, Switzerland.

"I cannot take the risk of another fall so close to the world race," he said yesterday. "I can ride without too much trouble, but running, at the moment, is painful."

Young should have joined the six-times champion, Steve Douce, in Switzerland.

The British open champion, David Baker, has decided to miss overseas competition this weekend and concentrates on trying to help Yorkshire retain the inter-area team championship tomorrow at Boston Manor, Hanwell. Eight area teams have entered, giving a field of 104.

Baker will reveal in the fast conditions promised, and, with a strong team in support, the result should be another victory for Yorkshire.

Tim Gould, the silver medal winner to Baker in the recent "national", is out of the British world championship team. He has been advised not to ride for at least five days after a knee operation.

HOCKEY

Wimbledon seek third surprise

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

WIMBLEDON face a daunting task today in the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup when they take on St Albans at Kings College, Raynes Park. They have, however, already beaten two second division teams from the Pizza Express National League, Canterbury and Gore Court, and are hoping to bring about another surprise.

St Albans have talent and experience, but Wimbledon have raised their game against superior opposition and the man most likely to inspire them is Culbir Bhaura, an Olympic gold medal winner in 1988. He has so far scored 15 goals for them this season, including the match-winning in the 1-0 victory over Gore Court in the fourth round. They are also indebted to their goalkeeper, Drake-Brockman, and their outside right, Carter.

St Albans will miss Rowan Davis, who has broken a collarbone and will be out of action for six weeks. Having defeated Slough 3-1 last week in the league, though, they will face tomorrow's match at home against Southgate with renewed confidence.

Slough will have Nicklin back for the first time in several weeks, after his Great Britain commitments, for the matches against Hounslow, the cup holders, today, and Neston, in the league tomorrow.

Hounslow, who are at full strength for both days, have what could be a testing league match at home to Cannock. But if Hounslow play as they did against El Cid in Barcelona early this month, no club in England can live with them.

Havant, having already qualified for the cup quarter-finals, have a comparatively light weekend. In today's Hampshire Cup match against Salisbury, they will give both Williams and Avery workouts, to see if they are fit enough for tomorrow's home league match against Bourneville. Williams has been troubled by a hamstring injury.

East Grinstead are expected to survive today's cup match against Indian Gymkhana, and should take maximum points from their home league match against Trojans tomorrow. In the second division, Reading could be severely tested when they visit Bedford Tigers. The leaders, Isca, seem unlikely to be troubled at home by Warrington.

STUDENT SPORT

Haining withdraws to pursue senior goal

BY MARK HERBERT

HAYLEY Haining's decision to withdraw this week from the British student cross-country championships in Keele on February 1 has deprived the event of its outstanding runner. After a year in the doldrums because of a neck injury, the Glasgow University veterinary undergraduate has found the best form of her life and opted to concentrate on the trials for the United Kingdom senior team for the world championships.

Her withdrawal will make the women's race a closer contest. The holder, Lisa Hollick, from Loughborough University, will defend her title, with the main challenge expected from Haining's Glasgow colleague and fellow Great Britain international, Vicki McPherson, who was runner-up last year.

However, the event this year doubles up as a trial for the British team in the world student cross-country championships in Dijon at the end of March. The first three women across the line next Saturday will be selected automatically, leaving one discretionary place.

Haining has pledged herself to the world student

championships, in spite of their proximity to the senior race in Boston on March 21, but if any of the other leading contenders fail on Saturday, the selectors could be left with a dilemma. Other runners capable of upsetting the form include Natalie Tait, of West London Institute, who ran for Britain in the World Student Games in Sheffield last summer, and Emma Coleman, of Cambridge, who won the University match at Wimbledon last month.

The men's race is less of a known quantity. Alistair O'Connor, the Staffordshire Polytechnic runner who won last year, and Andy Lyons, of Loughborough, who was third, are back again. Their challenge should come from Simon Barnes, Oxford's victor in the University match, and, intriguingly, John Maycock, who took the 5,000 metres gold medal at the World Student Games. The first four finishers are guaranteed selection for Dijon, with two discretionary choices completing the team.

The event will be run over a relatively flat course at Keele University. This year's entry of 703 men and 316 women is a record.

Conway may also have answers on ice

BY KEN LAWRENCE

DID you see her on *Question of Sport* the other evening? Joanne Conway: blonde, pert and pretty, coolly responding to quizmaster David Coleman. Normally, of course, our ice-maiden from Georgia-land poses the questions. "Will she, won't she?" we asked, wondering whether a suspect temperament will remain intact or whether her double axel and triple lutz, which have induced so many costly falls, can at last be performed with perfection when it matters.

She was only 14, six years ago, when first hailed as heirless to the British skating dynasty. Cousins had followed Curry Torville and Dean succeeded them both. Conway was the next in line. Somehow it never quite worked out. British titles were collected (six in seven years), but the ones that mattered - European, world and Olympic - were not.

Her potential was always bubbling just below the surface. At Calgary in 1988 she fell, finished seventh, and cried her eyes out on BBC television. A year later, her

SPORT ON TELEVISION THE WEEK IN REVIEW

new coach, Robin Cousins (by now Carlo and Christa Fassi had accepted that she had latent talent but that they were not going to reveal it, called her gutless as she again blew the European championship. Conway was in torment. Many may have quit, but she did not; she battled on and this afternoon will be on our screens again (*Grandstand*, BBC1, 12.15).

TODAY: Christopher Dean, who has changed Joanne Conway's approach to ice skating, joins Alan Weeks in *Grandstand* to assess her performance in the European championships in Lausanne. The women's final of the Australian Open tennis is live on Sky Sports. There is a two-hour round-up of the FA Cup matches (8pm). *The Road to Wembley* on BBC1 is at 10.40pm. Eurosport is dominated by winter sports from 10pm, including men's and women's skiing, bobsleigh and the figure skating in Switzerland.

Eurosport (12.55) as she skates for a medal in the European championships in Lausanne.

With the Winter Olympics only two weeks distant, more questions will be asked of her, but Conway believes that this time she has the answers; that the tears are all behind her.

Having forged a liaison with Christopher Dean, whose choreography is in classic T and D style, she has worked hard at Slough and Sunderland and is ready for Switzerland and the sterner challenge at Albertville. "It is going great," she insists, which is better than thinking she is going nowhere.

And so from British television's mistress of the rink to its masters of the canvas...

...if skating has never been considered a pure sport by many, but accepted because of the successes of Curry, Cousins and Torville and Dean, professional wrestling has suffered a far greater credibility gap.

It was always a TV filler between the football preview each Saturday and the football results with no Curry or Cousins or Torville and Dean to redeem it. Yet BBC2, in its *Arena* programme on Friday (9.30pm) attempts to link sport and art with a masked wrestler as the catalyst.

Poet and producer Paul Yates set out to interview Kenndo Nagasaki, whose face has

never been seen and who has never spoken. He also wanted him to be painted by Peter Blake, an artist to whom wrestling is as important as Liverpool is to 25,000 at Anfield. *Masters of the Canvas* claims to reveal the man behind the mask, but this is not quite so. Blake gets his painting, but the subject is in a mask. Yates gets his interview, but the words are not heard, only seen as sub-titles. Does Nagasaki actually hypnotise his opponents? Is he really vicious and dangerous? Or is he just another actor-entertainer with an ancient gimmick? *Arena* does not tell you, though I have my own suspicions.

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Six Pilkington Cup matches are frozen off

RFU must grapple with problems of fixture backlog

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rigours of winter have hit the Pilkington Cup for the first time in the four years that the St Helens-based glass company has sponsored the competition. Of the eight fourth-round ties scheduled, only two were still standing overnight and both Bristol and Walsley will hold morning pitch inspections.

The quarter-final draw on Monday has also been postponed and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) must now determine how best to manoeuvre what has been, because of the World Cup, an abbreviated club season.

Already one round of first-division league matches has been postponed from December 14, and it is now possible that the cup dates will all be set back, so that today's games, for example, would be played on February 22, quarter-final day. It is a grim

warning to those in England and Wales who, in the one case would introduce home and away league fixtures to a 13-club league, and in the other seek to increase their national divisions, already played home and away, to 12 clubs from ten.

John Jeavons-Fellows, the chairman of the RFU competitions sub-committee, believes that the cup, as a knockout competition, must take precedence over league fixtures. That creates the possibility of cup games being played on February 8, the next league weekend, and thus of postponed league games being played in mid-week later in the season; unless affected clubs chose to compete with televised internationals.

Heineken League clubs will do that anyway on February 15, when Wales have no fix-

ture: England's blank weekend in the five nations' championship is March 21 for which, as things stand, only two first division fixtures have been re-arranged.

Of the two cup matches remaining, Bristol, who play Saracens, may have the greater cause for optimism since a local company has provided them with pitch covering. Saracens hosted them off the top of the first division when they met in the league in December.

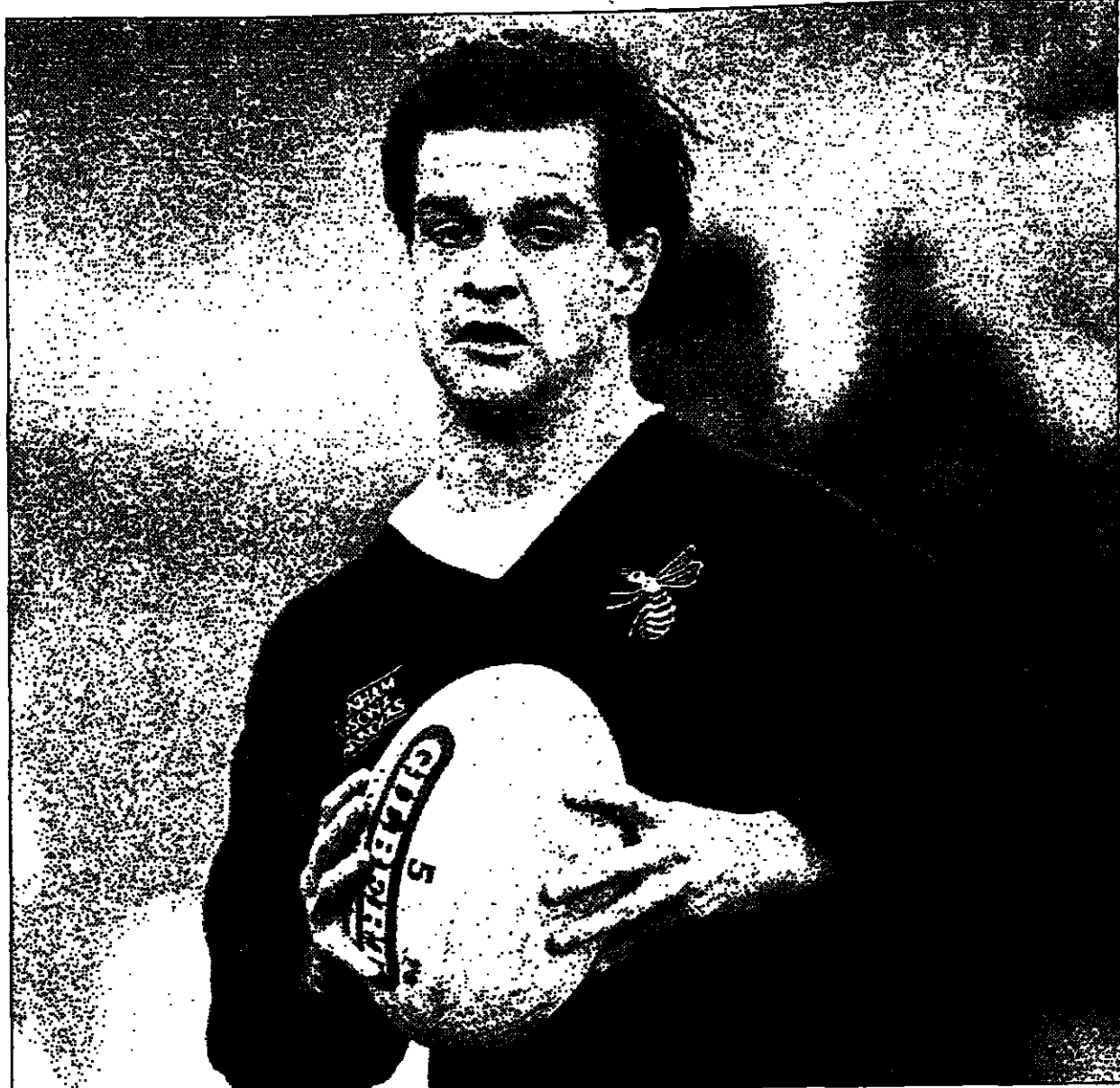
Mark Tainton returns at stand-off half for Bristol ahead of Simon Painter, who has damaged ankle ligaments. Tainton played five first-XV games before the league began, but his form dropped away so badly that he virtually opted out of rugby in December, concentrating on training and improving the bits and pieces of his game; that he has succeeded has been indicated by his recent play for Bristol United.

Bristol expect to make a decision at 9am, but Walsley may wait until later in the morning before confirming their cup tie with Harlequins, the holders. No one among the Harlequins will need reminding that they lost to Walsley in the opening league fixture of the season and no one at Walsley needs reminding that their subsequent form was not all it might have been.

Harlequins have nearly all their luminaries available (the suspended Tony Coker is the obvious absentee), of whom Andy Mullins plays his hundredth game. David Pears, in seven games for the club, has scored 94 points.

However, Walsley can field a decently-talented XV, with a particularly forthright back division which includes, on the right wing, Richard Stodart, the New Zealand under-21 trialist from Southland.

Some 12,000 people are expected at Thomond Park, Limerick, to see if Shannon can sustain their unbeaten record in the first division of the All-Ireland League. They have dropped only one point, to Lansdowne, and if they beat second-placed Garryowen they will go three points clear. Brian Rigney will play in Greystones's second row in the second division match with Dunganstown to prove his fitness to play for Ireland in the B international against England next Friday.



The compleat player: Davies happy again in the Wasps No. 10 shirt after breaking his jaw

Davies still carrying a sting

THERE are sportsmen who achieve their just deserts, others whose rewards seem to far outweigh their merits, while yet a third group is formed by that forlorn band doomed to get so far but no further. And there are some of whom you say "What if...?" So what if Huw Davies had been born two or three years later and had been part of the group of England players who have performed with such distinction of late.

We will never know, of course, but today, weather permitting, Davies, 32 next month, will remind us of the skills which won 21 England caps when he resumes at stand-off half for Wasps in their attempt to bring down the Pilkington Cup holders, Harlequins — themselves replete with England players present rather than past.

Davies might have been more capful, but for a series of injuries which extinguished his international career. It is not overstating the case to say that Davies had it all — the natural gifts allied to a capacity for hard work plus the maturity to handle the twin imposters, triumph and disaster.

DAVID HANDS on the Wasps and former England stand-off half hoping to turn back the clock against Harlequins today

He had his share of the latter: in playing terms defeats against South Africa in 1984 by 33-15 and 35-9 (as a centre), against New Zealand in 1985 by 42-15 (as a full back), against Scotland in 1986 by 33-6 (again at full back). In personal terms, that 1986 season, his last as an international player, saw the start of his injury problems: first the shoulder, then hamstring, then shoulder again, followed by the ankle.

In retrospect, Davies paid the penalty for being too talented. His emergence as a stand-off in 1981 looked like the start of a long career but coincided with a gradual England decline. Rather than being left to blossom at stand-off, as Rob Andrew has been permitted to do, he was moved sideways to the centre for his defensive qualities and then to full back in New Zealand even though he was picked for that tour at stand-off.

Now the wheel has turned

and he is back in the No. 10 shirt for Wasps. Andrew, having moved to France, but even then Davies could not cast off ill fortune. Playing a league match against Leicester in November he cracked his jawbone and did not start again until last weekend. That Wasps have lacked direction in the absence of both players is not in dispute.

Davies concedes some three years of intense frustration. "I couldn't string more than two or three games together and then I dislocated my shoulder and delayed having an operation in the hope that one would not be required," he said. "Since spring 1990, I have stayed relatively clear of injury."

Then, however, Andrew was captain of the club and Wasps had acquired the services of two talented full backs, Steve Pilgrim and Alan Buzza. "I had got a bit slower and I wanted to ease my way back anyway," Davies said. "Last season, I just looked for enough first-team games to keep me happy, and this season, I knew there would be plenty of opportunity because of the World Cup."

It is hard to imagine that a footballer of Davies's all-round ability would not have prospered under the consistent management policy laid down by Geoff Cooke and Roger Utley, although Davies laughs off what might have been by suggesting that the level of commitment required now is far greater than when he appeared for England.

But he was always a competitor, in training and in the playing arena. "Like all things, once you get the taste you want it again, and if that requires extra effort, weight training, special diet, you will probably do it," he said. "It's a massive physical game at stand-off now, your tackle, more and more, you tackle bigger men. Look at all the work Rob and Will Carling had to do against the Scots last week."

So Davies will play against the Harlequins, Carling, Halliday et al. He says: "I thought this might be my last season, but we'll see how it pans out next summer. If I think I can still play to a certain standard, still contribute, I'll carry on. But it would be prudent not to be able to do the things I could once."

Tondu seek best of both worlds

By GERALD DAVIES

IF, ONCE, the Schweggs Welsh Cup competition gave the village clubs the chance of making a name for themselves and a victory against one of the prima donna clubs from the towns a special, cock-smoking bonus, it is no longer quite the same. The cup retains its glamour, of course, but with the Heineken League firmly in position, there are other challenges and small clubs need not languish if they are knocked out prematurely from the cup.

Tondu is a case in point. Last season, under the management of one Williams, initially J.P.R., they twice succeeded in a giant-killing act by disposing of Glamorgan Wanderers and Ebbw Vale and carried on to the last eight of the competition.

Quite a remarkably successful season, they just failed in the play-offs to reach the fourth division of the Heineken League. One wonders whether they wished it had been otherwise. Which prize would they really have preferred? Such a question makes for a more intriguing season. Tenby United, at the top of the third division, will travel with some trepidation to Tondu today.

There will be pitch inspections this morning at every one of the 16 fifth-round games. Two of the clubs, Pen-coed and Mountain Ash, who will play against the Heineken League first division clubs, Cardiff and Llanelli, have already made advanced preparations by laying a plastic covering to ensure there is no worsening of the frost. Pen-coed took the offer of the sheeting from their opponents, Cardiff.

At the head of the Cynon Valley, Mountain Ash, from the third division, and unbeaten in their last six matches, can expect a full house of some 7,000 spectators. This game represents Llanelli's 99th in the competition and if they can boast a record number of cup final successes (seven), their opponents hold the record for the number of points. In 1975, they scored 114 against Bullth Wells. They have beaten Llanelli, but that was in 1924.

There are three matches involving first and second division clubs — Maesteg v Newbridge, Newport v Glamorgan Wanderers and South Wales Police v Aberavon. But these distinctions are becoming increasingly less significant.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

All matches subject to pitch inspection

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

FA Cup

Third round replay

Derby County v Burnley

Fourth round

Bolton v Brighton

Bristol R v Liverpool

(all kick 12.30)

Cambridge v Millwall

Leicester v Bristol C

Norwich v Millwall

Notts County v Blackpool

Oxford v Sunderland

Preston v Leyton Orient

Sheff Wed v Middlesbrough

West Ham v Wytham

Barclays League

First division

Crystal Palace v Luton

Tottenham v Oldham

Third division

Brentford v Preston

Burton v Chester

Darlington v Bradford

Exeter v Fulham

Hull v Stockport

Hull v Stoke

Shrewsbury v Huddersfield

West Bromwich v Swans

Fourth division

Cardiff v Chesterfield

DIADORA LEAGUE

Premier division

Woking, Carshalton v Grays, Chesham v

Barnet, Enfield v Haringey, Hayes v

St Albans, Havant v Sutton United, Kingstonian v Bishop's Cleeve, Sturtford v

Wokingham, Windsor v Slough, Weymouth v

Barnet, Barking v Harlow, Charlton St Peter v

Reading, Dulwich v Dorking, Wyke, Swale v

Widow, Weymouth v Weymouth, Weymouth v

Weymouth v Weymouth, Weymouth v

Weymouth v Weymouth, Weymouth v

Weymouth v Weymouth, Weymouth v

Weymouth v Weymouth, Weymouth v

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GREAT MILLS LEAGUE

Premier division

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McEwan's Scottish League

First division

Boroughmuir v Hawick

Plymouth v Moray

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RUGBY UNION

2.30 unless stated

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

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King's Curate

King's Curate to star for Mellor

STAN Mellor and Mark Perrett have a fine chance of landing a double at Ayr this afternoon with King's Curate (1.30) and Rubika (2.30). King's Curate was to have taken on Milneham, but he was withdrawn by his Foxhill trainer after he had walked the course and found it unsatisfactory.

As a result, the winner of last season's Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival now has his sights set on the more valuable West of Scotland Pattern Novices' Chase at Ayr, where he made his successful chasing debut ear-

ly this month. Previously King's Curate had opened his campaign in style by forcing the champion hurdler Moseley Street to pull out all the stops at Ascot at level weights.

Jodami and Mossy Fern also stand their ground today and, like King's Curate, they are unbeaten over fences.

At the end of last season, Jodami was rated 30lb below King's Curate over hurdles even though he had won five of his six races. This season has seen him carry on the good work by winning both his chases at Kelso.

Warwick, Folkestone and Ascot have been the venues

for today's Hamilton Campbell Challenge Cup.

While Trubion, the third member of the Mellor-Perrett raiding party, should go well in the Sorn Novices' Handicap Chase, I much prefer the

two weight Abbot Of Furness, even though he fell at the second last on his latest visit to Ayr. At the time he was

clear of his rivals with the prize seemingly at his mercy.

Before that Abbot Of Fur-

ness had given an exhilarating display of fast and accurate jumping from the front when he won first time out at Wetherby. A repetition

will see him hard to catch now, and he is my nap.

Twelve months ago the programme started with George Moore and Mark Dwyer

combining to win the Harcourt Scottish Juvenile Novices Hurdle (qualifier) with All

Welcome.

Now they seem to have the answer again this time with

Good Profile, who has won all his three races over hurdles

since being purchased for 60,000 guineas out of Steve

Norton's stable.

ham in March by winning again today.

By winning over four miles at Cheltenham on New Year's day, his stable companion

Rubika proved beyond doubt that he has the requisite stamina

for today's Hamilton Campbell Challenge Cup.

While Trubion, the third member of the Mellor-Perrett

raiding party, should go well in the Sorn Novices' Handicap

Chase, I much prefer the two weight Abbot Of Furness,

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Counting the cost of camera patrol service

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of detecting "non-trainers" and careless riding is likely to cost racing an extra £2.5 million next year.

The latest blow to the sport's precarious finances became apparent yesterday after the Jockey Club reluctantly announced the need for extra racecourse cameras to help monitor races.

Portman Square's decision is an inevitable but costly consequence of Satellite Information Services (SIS) deciding not to renew its contract with Racecourse Technical Services for providing pictures to betting shops from May.

RTS, a subsidiary of the Levy Board, is primarily employed to provide "integrity services", including coverage of races which enable stewards to detect if the rules of racing have been flouted.

The cost last year for the RTS camera patrol work was £2.1 million, £1.7 million of which was recovered from SIS who paid for the television feed to betting shops.

SIS awarded a £10 million contract for racecourse coverage to Chrysalis last November and so will no longer be paying RTS.

Chrysalis offered to provide racing authorities with a free feed of its pictures for integrity purposes, but the Jockey

Club has concluded they will not be suitable.

Chrysalis cameras will be installed in different positions to those of RTS on some courses and will be aimed at providing pictures suitable for punters, rather than for stewards enforcing the rules.

In many cases Chrysalis will not have head-on or tail cameras, which often provide officials with crucial evidence.

Tony Goodhew, the Jockey Club's director of field services, said yesterday: "We have had discussions with SIS together with Chrysalis and what has become quite clear is that the Jockey Club and SIS have got two very different requirements. That was going to be obvious from the start when RTS lost the contract."

"SIS want a picture for the television viewer and punter so he can identify the position of his horse in relation to the race. The director will direct his cameras accordingly."

He added: "We have found in general our respective requirements appear to be incompatible. There is quite a difference between what is required for integrity as opposed to entertainment. We will need separate integrity cameras on most occasions."

The cost of providing additional cameras is likely to be

considerable whoever is awarded the work. Given the loss of £1.7 million from SIS, the additional bill for racing next year is bound to top £2.5 million.

While RTS is bound to be keen to do the work, it would make economic sense if the Jockey Club or the Levy Board can negotiate a deal with Chrysalis for installing the extra cameras needed for integrity pictures.

Tisham Ricketts, chief executive of the Levy Board, was waiting last night to hear the full extent of the Jockey Club's requirements before estimating the cost implications.

"We have always said this is a matter for the Jockey Club to decide. It is the guardian of integrity services and it will lay down the standard."

"We will need to know its reasons because of the cost implications and the board will have to take a view as to whether it is satisfied with those reasons."

The latest financial setback came 24 hours after it was disclosed that turnover in December fell by a massive 17.5 per cent compared to the previous month.

The slump reduces the prospect of income this year reaching £35.5 million, an estimate based on zero growth.

Hartington's BHB plan to come under scrutiny

By RICHARD EVANS



Hartington: ready to address challenge

LORD Hartington, the senior steward of the Jockey Club, faces a double challenge to his plans for a British Horseracing Board (BHB) when they are discussed by a racing working party next month.

The Jockey Club announced yesterday that seven representatives drawn from the Horseracing Advisory Council, Racecourse Association, Racecourse Owners' Association and Portman Square will meet for the first time on February 3 to discuss the power-sharing blueprint.

Portman Square had initially proposed an "implementation group" to carry out the proposals contained in Lord Hartington's Gimcrack speech. The suggestion was resisted by industry representatives who are anxious

to see substantial changes to the existing BHB plan. Lord Hartington is expected to be challenged on at least two key points, including the suggestion that he should chair the BHB for up to three years.

Bookmakers grudgingly offer Sunday support

THE big bookmakers have agreed to advertise prices for Sunday racing on Saturdays and take bets, provided they are placed within the law (Richard Evans writes).

The support offered for the Jockey Club's Sunday racing plan was grudging rather than enthusiastic when betting industry representatives met racing officials at Portman Square this week.

With the notable exception of Coral, the big bookmakers are far from enthusiastic about attempts to stage Sunday racing without a change in the betting legislation.

Ladbroke and William Hill

believe Sunday racing should only take place when betting laws have been changed to legalise on and off-course betting.

Nigel Clark, chairman of the Sunday racing campaign committee, described Thursday's meeting with representatives from William Hill, Ladbroke, the Tote, BOLA, NAB and Coral as "useful".

Coral Super Saver, trained by Mick Ryan, is being aimed at the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster in March following her comfortable six-length win in the Shark Handicap on Southwell's all-weather track yesterday.

Ladbroke and William Hill

Police probe dope scandal in Bombay

INDIAN police are investigating the involvement of big-time criminals in a doping scandal which came to light when a horse collapsed at the start and had to be destroyed.

Ramdev Tyagi, a senior police officer, said that two bottles of drugs and some syringes had been found during searches of Bombay racetracks. India's leading track

He said police had arrested the chief security officer of the Royal Western India Turf Club, which runs the Bombay racecourse, on suspicion of involvement. Three grooves were also arrested.

"It seems that organised gangs are involved in this racket," Tyagi said, adding that police believed they knew who the mastermind was and were seeking him.

Police began investigating after Night And Day, a colt due to start favourite for a race on January 5, collapsed at the start.

No televised Ayr coverage

THERE will be no live racing on television today following the abandonments of Cheltenham and Doncaster.

Channel 4, due to screen four races from Doncaster, has decided against switching coverage to Ayr. BBC1 were intending to cover three races at Cheltenham.

There will be a 10am inspection tomorrow to determine prospects for the meeting at Plumpton on Monday.

Arlington final is saved

CHELLENHAM's loss to be Newbury's gain following the successful re-scheduling yesterday of the Arlington Premier Series Chase.

The two-and-a-half mile final, featuring Remittance Man and Rolling Ball, is to be

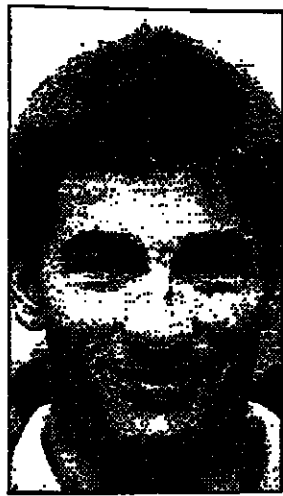
switched from today's abandoned Cheltenham fixture to Newbury on February 8.

The race, which will be re-opened at the five-day stage, joins the Tote Gold Trophy and Game Spirit Chase on an attractive card.

Southwell results

Going: standard. 1.25 (m) 1. QUALITAIN AVIATOR (3) (Barrowall, 10-11), 2. Duffley Dancer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 3. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 4. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 5. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 6. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 7. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 8. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 9. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 10. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 11. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 12. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 13. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 14. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 15. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 16. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 17. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 18. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 19. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 20. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 21. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 22. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 23. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 24. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 25. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 26. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 27. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 28. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 29. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 30. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 31. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 32. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 33. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 34. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 35. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 36. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 37. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 38. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 39. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 40. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 41. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 42. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 43. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 44. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 45. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 46. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 47. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 48. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 49. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 50. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 51. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 52. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 53. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 54. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 55. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 56. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 57. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 58. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 59. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 60. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 61. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 62. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 63. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 64. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 65. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 66. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 67. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 68. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 69. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 70. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 71. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 72. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 73. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 74. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 75. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 76. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 77. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 78. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 79. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 80. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 81. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 82. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 83. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 84. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 85. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 86. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 87. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 88. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 89. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 90. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 91. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 92. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 93. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 94. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 95. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 96. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 97. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 98. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 99. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 100. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 101. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 102. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 103. Qualitain Blazer (3) (Cochrane, 2-1), 104

Boris and the Bells battle for a breakthrough



Martin Bell: optimist

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN WENGEN

DO NOT go looking for any Brits in the medal frame, nor even in the first ten, here in today's Lauberhorn World Cup downhill. Martin Bell has been unable to capitalise upon his eighth place, historic for Britain, in the Olympic downhill of 1988 at Nakiska Mountain, Calgary. He was then 23. His younger brother, Graham, now 25, has yet to recapture the brilliance of his youth.

The top Brit this season is Ronald Duncan, better known to his friends as Bo-

ris, who has twentieth starting place today on account of victories in two summer races in Chile last year. The self-effacing Duncan, who was on the team 11 years ago before taking three years off to read for a physics degree in computer sciences at Cambridge, has, by the vagaries of the points system, a starting place ahead of even such as Girardelli and Wasmeier.

The situation has not been easy, Martin Bell admits. Maintaining incentive. "If for nothing else than I don't like being No. 3 on the British team. I still feel the aggression that one needs

before every race. Maybe things are turning for me."

In his first important race following the last Olympic Games, the downhill at Val Gardena early in 1989, Bell fell heavily on the final jump before the run-in. Relaxing concentration, his ski tips lifted, he fell heavily, and broke his thumb. That was less serious than a torn knee cartilage, which gave continuous pain on every jump. It was 18 months before he had an operation to remove it, and two seasons had gone by, effectively wasted.

"Perhaps I felt in Calgary, sub-consciously, that I'd arrived," he reflects. "I think the crash was symptomatic,

unfortunately, of my mood at the time. Suddenly, I was finding I was off the pace, and it's frightening how quickly you can slip out of being in contention."

In Chile last summer, Bell won a practice race, then came fifth and ninth in the races proper, behind Duncan. Graham was fourth and seventh. Today, looking at the present leaders of one of sport's most audacious events, the Bell brothers are encouraged by the fact that advancing age is not necessarily a handicap.

Stock and Hoeffner, of Austria, are in their early thirties, while Hemmer, of Switzerland, the No. 1

downhill, will be 30 next birthday.

"We'll both keep going at least until the Winter Games at Lillehammer in 1994," Graham Bell says. And they are hopeful that a possible new ranking system, adjusting the points that determine starting places, might be helpful. After the first two World Cup races this season, they both moved down to the European Cup circuit to try to improve their points standing, and today will be only their third World Cup race.

These days, Graham Bell has no trouble from the knee injury that terminated his climb to the top, having

come second in the world junior championship aged 17. His knee has a ten-inch stretch of knitted polyester replacing his ruptured cruciate ligament. This does not impair his movement, and he is optimistic he can still make the breakthrough.

Also helpful to the brothers is that personal sponsorship is holding up even under the stress of the present recession. Each has the backing of a travel company, which together with Drabinski's sponsorship of the British Ski Federation is enough to keep them on the circuit full time.

Following Martin Bell's injury, Fischer Ski's lost en-

thusiasm in their support, and the brothers switched to Head, and have found this to their advantage.

When Walter Hubman, their Austrian coach, departed in the summer of 1989 to return to the his country's European Cup squad, Harry Sweger, also of Austria, was appointed. But the move was so unsuccessful that complaints led to his removal.

The British coach is now Hans Aeneander, another experienced Austrian. He keeps the troupe on a tight rein of discipline, which even in your mid-twenties is no bad thing if you are reaching for the top.

The late arrival is life and soul of the party

Botham gets going with a typically boisterous display

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW PLYMOUTH

AS IAN Botham, the pantomime star, would agree, the old lines are very often the best. The same evidently applies to Botham, the cricketer, on the strength of a foreshortened day on which the tour newsmen ran through a familiar routine of pranks and histrionics and was blessed by outrageous good fortune.

It was no great surprise when Botham grabbed the new ball at start of play and no surprise at all that he should take his first wicket with a leg-side wicketkeeping catch or his second with a leg-before decision, with the batsman claiming, far too publicly, that he had hit it. To expect anything else of Botham would be to underestimate the man.

His first spell back in England colours, and the first time on which a Durham player has represented the country, was a cameo of Botham down the years. As ever, he made a sow's purse out of a pig's ear. There were some good balls and some very bad ones, but almost all were accompanied by theatrical anticipation.

It was, in many ways, the ideal stage for his return. Pukekura Park is possibly the world's loveliest ground and the grass terracing, cut out of the hills on three sides, provides an amphitheatre which might have been made for Botham. Although more than half the day was lost to rain, he brought people through the gate and, on a briefly sunlit evening, the crowd was perhaps bigger than on some days of the Christchurch Test.

This match, against Central Districts, is relevant for certain fringe players, a category in which Botham must be included, but that did not prevent a general mood of jollity which, two days after a memorable Test victory, was natural enough. Botham was

involved in everything, if at times on the receiving end.

When he called for a drink while bowling, Allan Lamb, the 12th man, brought him cold tea disguised as Coca Cola. Then, having given way in the attack to Gooch, Botham shifted the bowling marker so that Gooch lost his run-up; the skipper's response was to balloon the next ball in the general direction of the sniggering Botham at first slip.

Such schoolboy lightheartedness could be condoned on a day like this, certainly more so than the sight of Roger Twose, the Warwickshire all-rounder who acts as overseas player here, haranguing the umpire after being adjudged leg-before.

Twose was not the only Central Districts player who apparently felt hard done by. Ingham's expression suggested he thought no contact was made when he wafted at Botham and Douglas set off away from the pavilion, declining to look at the umpire, when he was caught at short leg off the other, half-forgotten new boy, Illingworth. No complaints, though, from Mark Greatbatch, whose Test place is now for sale.

Two important decisions had been taken by England

before play. One was that Stewart should gain further experience of captaincy, a role he mischievously relished by making Gooch bowl more than he would have chosen and, between overs, having him commute between third man and fine leg. The other was that Lawrence should not be risked, despite a very encouraging work-out in which he bowled five overs, eventually at close to full speed.

The fear with Lawrence is that he would hold nothing back. The reality is that one further relapse would close the book on his case. Laurie Brown, the physiotherapist, admitted: "If he came off and said his side was at all sore, I would have to tell him to rest for ten days. That would be the end of his tour."

Brown was kept busy yesterday treating DeFreitas, whose groin strain is now a concern for the Auckland Test next week. "He could not have played in this match," confirmed Brown. "His legs feel dead and stiff after a lot of work. I think the groin will respond to rest, but I will continue to treat him."

The other man to pass through Brown's care yesterday was Pringle, whose match-winning catch in Christchurch was, it transpires, more heroic than it first seemed. The left index finger which Pringle broke in September was hit again, by his namesake Chris, early in the Test and has since been badly swollen and sore.

Pringle himself might have been sore when, not for the first time in this country, he yesterday had a number of valid leg-before shouts rejected. England had chosen to bowl first and with good reason, because the ball swung for all of their medium-paced bowlers, and by the close Central Districts, at 91 for five, were in disarray.



First of the tour: Botham appeals successfully as Ingham is caught behind

Middlesex receive a three-year backing

MIDDLESEX County Cricket Club is to be sponsored for the next three years by Smithkline Beecham, the producers of Brylcreem and Lucozade (Ivo Tennant writes). The backing, worth more than £500,000, will benefit, in particular, the county's Centenary Youth Trust, junior teams and the players' pool.

Mike Murray, the Middlesex chairman, said that the deal gave the county security to plan for its future. "Sponsorship is vital for clubs in these recessionary times," he said. Brylcreem still remains synonymous with Denis Compton, who became renowned for wearing it during

his career. Now the president of Middlesex, he admitted yesterday that he never expected to be associated with it again. "I loved every minute of those days," he said.

The product has never sold so well since Compton was at the height of his fame in the Forties and Fifties. It will be liberally dispensed in the Middlesex dressing room, and the sponsors are hoping that Phil Tufnell, among others, will take to using it.

John Emburey, the Middlesex vice-captain, said Tufnell should be an England cricketer for the next 15 years. "He could well end up with more Test wickets than anyone," he said.

Border sets an exhausting example

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN ADELAIDE

IT WAS said of the first Australians to play Test cricket in Adelaide, in 1884, that "they did not trouble to practise". Anything less applicable to their side today would be hard to imagine.

It exhausts me just to watch Allan Border and his players at work. After a three-hour session following their arrival here on Thursday afternoon, they were at it again for another three hours yesterday morning, hardly letting up for a moment. The captain is as fit as any of them, though he is 36. The same goes for Graham Gooch, who is 38, as it did for Vivian Richards, even until he gave up the

West Indian captaincy, by when he was 39.

Most Test captains that I have known — anyway the earlier ones — would have found today's pace more than they could cope with. Freddie



Border: fitness devotee

Brown had his fortieth birthday in Adelaide on the 1950-1 MCC tour, and I fancied the doctor would have advised him against such a violent exercise as the Australian, English and West Indian sides take today, but he bowled a lot of overs in the Test matches and never broke down.

What has struck me in the past two days, even with this intensely committed Australian side, is that when bowling in the nets they pay not the slightest attention to the position of the front foot. Although the cost of it is to be counted in hundreds of runs during the year, at practice, the Australians, not to mention the Indians, have been over-stepping with abandon.

I happen to think that the present front-foot law has very little to recommend it, and accounts to no small extent for the decline over the past 20 years in overall bowling standards.

It is simply not natural for a bowler to have to concern himself with where his front foot is landing. Sir Donald Bradman considers it a nonsense.

However, it is the law as it stands, and to see Test players practising as though it did not matter is, to say the least, surprising. It is as though Stefan Edberg foot-faulted for a pasture while at practice, or a team of international long jumpers laughed off their no-jumps; it is as irrational as that.

ICE SKATING

Potential medal vanishes with Conway's lapse

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN LAUSANNE

BRITISH hopes of a medal in the European championships disappeared without a discernible trace here yesterday. Joanne Conway, who had earlier expressed the opinion that "a medal of any colour would be brilliant", was left bewildered by her damaging omission of a triple jump in the original programme section. She and her compatriot, Charlene von Saher, were two of the few skaters who did not chance their arm with a triple.

The original programme was won by the champion, Surya Bonaly, of France, who was born on the Indian Ocean island of La Réunion.

A gymnast of some international standing, she is gradually adapting her acrobatics to the demands of the ice rink. Her extraordinary ability to perform the jumps, with almost total security, is a particularly important virtue in the short programme, where mandatory penalties are exacted for any failure. Thus, she was able to execute the double axel with almost no preparation, to place the triple jump second in the combination and to perform a double flip almost as a passing supplementary.

What, though, are we to

make of Conway, whose medal aspirations had not seemed exaggerated? She is to have an operation in March on a bone spur in a foot, but she declined to associate that with her failure with the triple flip yesterday. "I just can't explain what went wrong," she said. "It just didn't happen."

It must, then, be put down to a failure of nerve at a critical moment, made all the more painful by the fact that she is, by any standards, a superb skater with a commanding presence on the ice. She lies in ninth place and is unlikely even to emulate her fourth place overall a year ago.

Nor did British disappointments end there: Von Saher, who came across the Atlantic to represent Britain on account of having been born in Wimbledon, also committed the same costly error as Conway. In her case, it was a toe loop, well within her compass. She is in fifteenth place.

RESULTS: Men's Singles Final positions: 1. Philippe (CZ, 2.25pts), 2. V. Pavlenko (CZ, 3.0pts), 3. A. Kuchner (CZ, 4.0pts), 4. V. Kostin (CZ, 4.5pts), 5. M. Pashchenko (CZ, 5.0pts), 6. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 5.5pts), 7. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 6.0pts), 8. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 6.5pts), 9. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 7.0pts), 10. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 7.5pts), 11. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 8.0pts), 12. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 8.5pts), 13. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 9.0pts), 14. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 9.5pts), 15. S. Pashchenko (CZ, 10.0pts).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Frozen cup clubs seek Headingley warmth

BY KEITH MACKLIN

PITCH inspections will be taking place throughout rugby league territory today, but one of the three Silk Cup Challenge Cup first round fixtures has already succumbed to the frost. Whitehaven v Sheffield Eagles will now be played on Monday.

Whitehaven's recreation ground was also set to stage the tie between Kells, the West Cumbrian amateur club, and Hunslet in the third division. This game is extremely doubtful, but a decision will be made today.

On the credit side, the revised Leeds v Ryedale York tie will definitely be played this afternoon on Headingley's underground heating system, and Dewsbury's game with Leigh has been saved by the £2,000 expenditure on plastic

sheeting. As Dewsbury share Bailey's ground at Mount Pleasant, this should also save the Bailey match against first division Featherstone Rovers tomorrow.

Another certainty tomorrow is the game between Trafford Borough and Castleford, which has a morning kick-off after being switched to the secure warmth of Headingley's electric blanket, which is again proving its immense value. Barrow, who are at home to Keighley, have high hopes of playing.

Wigan's game at Saltaire was called off on Thursday, Wigan are desperate to get the fixture completed to allow them to represent Britain in the inaugural world sevens at Sydney on February 8 and 9.

Length of course is reduced for challenger trials

San Diego

AS DENNIS Conner handed Bill Koch the biggest lesson in his short America's Cup career, beating the multi-millionaire by an emphatic six minutes during Thursday's defence trials, some of the challengers were working round the clock to get their boats ready before yesterday's measurement deadline.

Syd Fischer's Challenge Australia group found that efforts to improve their yacht's light air performance had put the boat out of class, and Thursday night was spent frantically re-juggling

Barry Pickthall on how the America's Cup hopefuls are measuring up

sail and ballast figures. "Yes, we do have a problem with measurement, but it is nothing like as bad as the problems we hear the Italians are facing," Phil Thompson, Fischer's helmsman, said.

Like the Challenge Australia team, which has the biggest yacht and smallest sail area, the Italians have been concerned by the early performance of the New Zealand yacht. The Bruce Farr design

is the smallest in the fleet and with the largest sail area. By all accounts, her performance is devastating in light winds.

The Australians and Italians have spent the past week attempting to optimise their yachts for the light winds forecast for the first round robin trials starting today; efforts that appear to have been counter-productive. Iain Murray's Spirit of Australia was also in dock, her crew working feverishly to resolve the poor manoeuvring provided by the yacht's novel bow and stern rudder system.

In light of lessons learned during the first round of de-

fence trials, the challengers agreed yesterday to change the format of their racing. The course has been shortened by 11.5 per cent to 20 miles and the four heats will begin at ten-minute intervals from 11.30am (local time).

The complex zig-zag course limits the amount of changes that can be made to counter wind shifts. The crews have chosen to restrict changes to moving the weather mark before the second upwind leg only.

The withdrawal of the Russian and Yugoslav teams means that the challengers will need only seven of the

nine days allocated for each round-robin series of trials. The final two days of each round will now be held in reserve in case a lack of wind forces the cancellation of racing.

Today's final defence trial between Koch's two campaign yachts is likely to be the last for Jayhawk, which has failed to win a single encounter.

The American boat, built at huge cost by Hercules Aerospace, finished a poor seventh in last year's world championship and is expected to be retired in favour of a new boat ready to be shipped across

from Rhode Island in time for the second round of trials next month.

Thursday's stronger winds showed Conner's Stars & Stripes in a fresh light. "We had some unbelievable speed today," Tom Whidden, Conner's tactician and sailmaker, said. "There is no way Defiant could have beaten us on speed today. This was a fairly important race for us."

Defiant, Koch's front-line boat, skippered by Buddy Meigs, has beaten Stars & Stripes in all their encounters and remains unbeaten in this first round of trials.

	Depth (m)	Conditions	Runs to start	Weather	Temp (°C)	Last snow
AUSTRIA						
Alpbach	35-110	good	open	sunny	2	21/1
						(Best skiing on upper runs: 21 lifts and 17 pistes open)
Ellmau	40-70	good	open	sunny	5	21/1
						(All runs open except glacier runs; very hard before holiday; all lifts open)
Lech	30-130	good	open	sunny	7	21/1
						(Good skiing; this layer of new snow on hard bases; 23 lifts open)
St Anton	55-170	good	open	sunny	7	21/1
						(Plates hard in the morning but conditions good later; 33 lifts open)
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	90-120	good	open	cloudy	5	21/1
						(Upper runs closed due to wind; 38 pistes open)
Chamonix	70-240	good	open	sunny	7	20/1
						(La Plagne glacier closed due to strong wind; 50 pistes open)
Flaine	65-190	good	open	cloudy	9	21/1
						(Good skiing; this layer of new snow on hard bases; 23 lifts open)
Doux Alpes	50-200	good	open	cloudy	5	21/1
						(Flower skiing on glacier; lower runs hard; 30 lifts and 44 pistes)
SWITZERLAND						
Getzsdorf	15-60	good	open	sunny	8	20/1
						(Powder on upper runs; hard on lower; 60 lifts open in region)
Leogang	70-110	good	open	sunny	4	20/1
						(Up to 170cm on glacier; runs good overall; lower runs hard-packed)
Zermatt	40-120	good	open	sunny	4	20/1
						(Thin powder layer on upper slopes; link with Cervinia open)
ITALY						
Cortina	70-180	good	open	sunny	8	21/1
						(Powder on Plateau Rosé; lifts to Zambelli and Vallonara open)
Madones di C...	60-120	good	open	sunny	7	23/1
						(Powder skiing; 27 lifts and 30km of pistes open)
Selva	65-95	good	open	sunny	4	22/1
						(Fresh snow on all pistes; Sellafield open in both directions)
UNITED STATES						
Aspen	100-110	good	open	sunny	8	17/1
						(Good skiing on upper runs; very hard before holiday; all lifts open)
Vail	80-110	good	open	sunny	4	24/1
						(All lifts and trails open; 30m of new snow on pistes after warm spell)

Supplied by Ski Holidays, L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

Forward's career depends on Cup success

Townsend opens doubts on his future at Chelsea

By CLIVE WHITE

ANDY Townsend, one of the most sought-after players in Britain, confessed yesterday that he was not prepared to live with failure any longer. Should his club, Chelsea, fail to win the FA Cup tomorrow's televised FA Cup fourth round tie against Everton at Stamford Bridge, Townsend indicated that he would be forced to seriously reconsider his future.

The Republic of Ireland international and Chelsea captain has finished on the losing side in five important cup semi-finals — twice in the FA Cup and three times in the League Cup — and saw another chance of reaching a Wembley final virtually disappear on Tuesday when Chelsea were beaten 2-0 in the first leg of the Zenith Data Systems Cup southern final by Southampton at the Dell.

"I'm not trying to put pressure on the powers that be, but I would be lying if I said I was definitely going to end my days here," he said.

"There's no burning desire to pack up and leave and go and play for someone else,



FA CUP

FA CUP BETTING (Ladbrokes): 7-2 Manchester United, 4-1 Liverpool, 5-1 Nottingham Forest, 9-1 Everton, 10-1 Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa, 20-1 Norwich, Chelsea, 33-1 West Ham, Cambridge, Blackburn.

but there is a burning desire to win something."

It is the first time that Townsend has intimated that he would be prepared to leave the club he joined in a £1.2 million deal from Norwich City 18 months ago. Chelsea have resisted all offers for the player, who would now command more than £3 million.

Townsend appeared to have pledged himself to the London club when he signed an improved contract this season but Chelsea's spineless performance in midweek, which Ian Porterfield, the manager, described as the worst in his time at the club, may have made Townsend face up to the team's inadequacies.

"I would certainly be

choked if at the end of my playing days I had not achieved anything," he said. "I'm 28 now and the next couple of years are so important to me." He added with stinging criticism of the club's playing strength: "I've played for Southampton and Norwich and now I'm at another club that hasn't been geared up for success."

Townsend estimated that the club needed as many as five or six more quality players to bring the first team squad up to an acceptable strength of 20. But with Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, needing all the money he can lay his hands on to buy out the leasehold of Stamford Bridge and redevelop the site, there would appear to be precious little funds for big signings.

One player who is definitely poised to leave his club but may be planning a quick return is Gordon Davies, the Wrexham and former Wales international forward. Davies, aged 36, is set to leave the Welsh club on Monday to become player-manager of Tornado, a Norwegian club.

However, should Wrexham, who knocked out Arsenal in the third round, continue to advance in the competition at the expense of West Ham United, whom they meet at Upton Park today, Davies intends to find out whether or not it is possible for him to continue playing for the fourth division club in the FA Cup.

Davies, who joined the club on a free transfer from Fulham, has already agreed to stay on should Wrexham take West Ham to a replay next week. "He's one of the best professionals I've ever worked with and he's been a huge influence in our dressing room," Brian Flynn, the Wrexham manager, said.

The magic of the Cup is such that even Flynn, aged 36, felt compelled to include himself in his team's squad, while at Fratton Park, Glenn Roeder, 37, is poised to play his first cup-tie for Leyton Orient, for whom he is on trial, since their FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal in 1978.

Robert Rosario, who was banned from receiving FA Cup final tickets for three years, yesterday said: "It was my fault. I was let down by a friend. I gave my pair of tickets to him for nothing."

The FA discovered that tickets supplied to him for last year's final were later sold on for inflated prices.

"With hindsight, I should have returned the tickets to the FA when I knew I was not going to use them," he added.

Fixtures, page 40
Racing, page 41

Nevin's task, page 43
Team news, page 43

Frost threatens to take further toll

By JOHN GOODBODY

SEVERE frost has hit sport this weekend, with football and rugby union being forced to postpone cup matches and race meetings being cancelled at Cheltenham and Doncaster.

More fixtures are in doubt with inspections scheduled this morning at many grounds. Four FA Cup fourth-round ties and six Barclays League matches, including the first division match at Crystal Palace, have been called off. The postponed cup ties at Bristol Rovers, Notts County, Sheffield Wednesday and Oxford United will be played in the week beginning February 3.

Last night's league games at Wigan and Northampton also fell foul of the weather.

Bolton Wanderers, at home to Brighton, and Derby County, who meet Burnley in a third-round replay, were confident yesterday that under-soil heating would enable them to play today. West Ham United thought that their new £15,000 cover would guarantee their tie against Wrexham today and that of Charlton Athletic, who share Upton Park, against Sheffield United tomorrow.

The biggest disappointment was for Bristol Rovers, who were to meet Liverpool. The Twerton Park ground had suffered three successive nights of sub-zero temperatures and a club official said: "The sun is shining but part of the ground is in shade and the pitch is rock-hard. With a 12.30pm kick-off we had to make a decision today. We did not want Liverpool fans to have a wasted journey in the morning. The tie will be played on February 4 and all 9,400 tickets will be valid. There will be no refunds."

However, Bristol's rugby union side was optimistic that its tie against Saracens would be one of only two Pilkington Cup matches to be played today. The other is between Wasps and Harlequins. Six of the fourth-round matches have been postponed and the draw for the quarter-final, scheduled for Monday, has been delayed.

The race meetings at Ayr and at the all-weather course at Lingfield will go ahead, but prospects for Plumpton on Monday are already poor.

Welsh to replace Norling

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will name tomorrow their XV to play Ireland in the second round of the five nations' rugby championship while Wales will nominate their referee for the game at Twickenham after the withdrawal yesterday of Clive Norling, who was scheduled to handle the but has been unable to shake off influenza.

The same Welsh trio that operated for the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield will be on duty at Twickenham, with the choice likely to be between Derek Bevan, who handled Scotland v England, and Les Peard.

The England squad, meanwhile, will train tomorrow at Bisham Abbey's all-weather surface. The selectors have two teams to nominate, since there is a B international with Ireland next Friday.

The main concern for the senior side is the fitness of Tim Rodber, the Northampton No. 8. If he reports no ill-effects from the blow on his head which forced him off last Saturday, then he is likely to retain his place.

Ulster question makes waves in swim contest

FROM CRAIG LORD IN BONN

ALL eyes were on Ireland in Bonn last night, but they were not smiling. For an entry by a team from Ulster-Northern Ireland has thrown into doubt the future role of British swimmers in the World Cup.

Invitations to the Arena Festival at Bonn, the fifth round of the World Cup, one of the world's leading short-course events, are for national federations only. Apparently unaware of the political situation and the organisation of swimming in Britain and Ireland, baffled organisers admitted last night that they were unaware that Northern Ireland was not a federation.

"It is not so for football and athletics," one official asked. "Organisers then seemed further alarmed by the realisation that none of the teams entered as England, Scotland and Wales were federation squads. The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain is the only federation in British swimming, while Ireland competes as a united team."

The three swimmers from Ulster had yet to arrive in Bonn last night, before this

morning's start of competition, but the matter had not gone unnoticed by the official Irish team.

Gerard Doyle, Ireland's head coach at Bonn, said: "It's very unfair. We chose our team on the basis of people with prospects for Barcelona. As far as we know, there are two here swimming as Northern Ireland because they weren't picked for Ireland. It would be the first Northern Ireland team. I can't really tell you what's going on."

"Ulster is a province, they are not a federation," he added.

The spokesman for Fina, the world governing body which became co-organiser of the World Cup for the first time this year, said: "We would like to see all this better controlled with rules being observed. At the moment, organisers are just happy to accept entries from as many 'countries' as possible."

"In the World Cup final next month, I am sure Britain will swim as Britain and nothing else. So, it should be that way in future in the qualifying rounds."



Maximum effort: Edberg puts everything into a service during his victory over Ferreira, of South Africa, in the Australian Open semi-final. Report, page 39

A surprise call for Watkin

By RICHARD STREETON

FOLLOWING a recurrence of shoulder trouble, Martin Bicknell, the Surrey fast bowler, has been withdrawn from the England A tour to Bermuda and West Indies in the long-term interests of his career. Steve Watkin, the Glamorgan seam bowler, replaces him in the tour party which will leave London on February 18.

Bicknell recently dislocated his left shoulder in training, a repetition of the problem that kept him out of cricket for nearly three weeks last June. There is a possibility that he will have a corrective operation.

Bicknell has been bowling at full pace as he prepared for the tour and this latest setback is a sickening disappointment for a player who has had more than his share of injury problems in recent years. He could have been

chance that his shoulder would "slip out" again.

Bicknell, aged 23, has accepted that he has most of his playing life ahead of him and that it is more important to rectify the problem in readiness for next summer. Last November, Bicknell had a rib operation to deal with a side injury which restricted his cricket in Australia with England in 1990-1.

Watkin, presently playing club cricket in Natal, was also a late addition to last winter's A tour to Pakistan and Sri Lanka, after DeFreitas was summoned to Australia. He played in the first two Test matches against West Indies last season, taking five wickets in the win at Headingley.

Watkin finished the summer with 74 first-class wickets at 29.39 each. He lacks Bicknell's pace, but can move the ball both ways and has an ideal temperament. Both last

winter and in Zimbabwe, on the 1989-90 A tour, he bowled with great perseverance.

Gladstone Small replaces Bicknell on the list of four players on stand-by for the World Cup, joining Monaghan, Hussain and the wicketkeeper, Rhodes. England have to announce their final World Cup squad 14 by February 19.

Watkin is the second change in the England A touring side. Earlier this week, John Stephenson, the Essex opener, was announced as the replacement for the injured Michael Atherton.

A South African cricket tour of West Indies in early April is on, providing sponsors can be found to pay for it. The programme includes a Test match in Barbados and three one-day internationals, in Jamaica and Trinidad.

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A painful kick

IT WOULD be going too far to feel sorry for any of the fabulously wealthy athletes preparing for the day of their lives at the Super Bowl here in Minneapolis tomorrow — but I must confess, with Scott Norwood, I come close. These "days" are when "perform" exercises in "positive thinking. They imagine themselves in all kinds of splendid situations. Think positive, eradicate the negative."

Norwood has spent the entire week talking about the worst disaster of his life. He missed, from 47 yards and by four feet, the last-minute kick that would have given the Buffalo Bills victory in the Super Bowl last year. What we 2,000-odd media people need to know is how did he feel? When did he know it was going to miss? How did it affect him? Every day, the same questions, over and over again, for a full hour. "It's like having the same tooth pulled every day," a player once said.

"You keep regurgitating that previous kick," Norwood said. "This has been beaten to death. My focus is on the future." Sure, yes, of course but what did you learn from that miss?

"How to cope with unusual circumstances that were placed on me by the media." How do you feel about that miss now? "I've put it totally out of my mind."

A chance would be a fine thing.

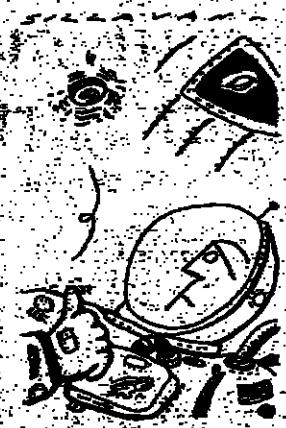
English lesson

THE Super Bowl is an unrivalled opportunity for cheap publicity. So, says Julie Brown, who played Madonna in "Black leather pants and Madonna-style 'bra-cas' comes". She performed some interviews, one from

a player's lap, and persuaded Jim Kelly, the superstar quarterback, to mock-tackle her for the cameras. Aren't Americans generous? I hear you say. Actually, downtown Julie Brown is English. The local papers say she speaks "in a heavy British accent". Me, I'm preserving my mystique out here.

Space watch

THERE is talk about astronauts on board the space shuttle becoming part of the Super Bowl pre-game show, performing the toss of the coin in space. Meanwhile, the Herbert H. Humphrey Metrodome, where the game takes place, was open on Thursday. You could buy a programme, cat hot dogs, and watch absolutely nothing. You couldn't even watch the grass grow, it's plastic.



Jamaicans are still 'bobbin'

EDDIE the Eagle may be missing the Winter Olympics, alas, but at least the old friends of this column, the Jamaican bobsleigh team, will be there. George Fitch, an American investment adviser, founded the team, and now says: "In '88 we were an oxymoron, and weren't taken too seriously. But we're not a gimmick, or flash-in-the-pan." The best news is that Devon Harris can now drive a sledge — who will forget the near disaster when the team completed the run on their heads?

Since then, the team has made a beer commercial, found a sponsor, and made a record (called "Hobbin and Bobbin"). They have been on a Jamaican commemorative stamp, and now Disney is developing a movie based on the team. Its goal is the top 30 in the two-man event, and the top 25 in the four. Possible rivals include Fiji, Philippines, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

No trial by TV Winter dream

THE follow-up to the television spectacular, *W2: from Kennedy South, will not take place*. Indiana laws do not allow court proceedings to be broadcast, so the Mike Tyson rape trial, which starts on Monday, will not happen in everybody's sitting room. Meanwhile, the judge has rejected 11 new witnesses for the defence, because of a missed deadline. These include a former writing "expert", a gay preacher, and a "gay" laborer for Tyson's "street language".

AN AWFUL lot of Americans think the Winter Olympics are taking place in Albertville, Alabama, rather than Albertville in France. Brenda Rains, director of the Alabama Albertville's chamber of commerce, has been fielding requests for tickets for six months. Several Albertville residents have called the chamber to say they were "surprised" to hear the town was hosting the Winter Games. They place a bet to be "one year later" for Tyson's "street language".

Durham pull off another coup

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE world cross-country championships are to return to Britain in 1995, the first time for 12 years that they will have been staged here. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the decision yesterday after a meeting of its council in Mexico City.

The championships will be staged in Durham, yet another coup for the North-East. The last British-hosted world cross-country championships were in 1983 in Gateshead. The 1985 women's world 15-kilometres championship and the 1989 European Cup were also in Gateshead and this year, on September 20, Tyneside will host the first IAAF world half-marathon championship.

The British bid representatives went to Mexico City seeking the 1994 championships but those have been awarded to Budapest. "If the IAAF had said no to 1994 and told us to apply next year for 1995, we would have been disappointed, but we are delighted to have 1995 — it gives us an extra year to prepare," John Caine, the events manager for Nova In-

ternational, said. Nova International is the marketing agency that presented the bid on behalf of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) and Durham City Council.

The cost of hosting the championships, aside of IAAF contributions, will be £250,000. The British bid needed to convince the IAAF of its financial strength and Caine said that sponsorship had been secured pending the decision. Any shortfall will be met by the BAF, Tony Ward, its spokesman, said.

Durham's impressive first appearance on the World Cross Challenge circuit in

December no doubt influenced the IAAF. However, the venue for that meeting, at Beamsit, will not be used for the world championships. They will be held at Maiden Castle playing fields, part of Durham University's sports facilities.

A promotional video of the North-East was, according to Caine, probably another important card and the essential provision of host television had, he said, been guaranteed by the BBC.

The head of Nova is Brendan Foster, whose triumphs as an athlete (former 3,000 metres world record holder) are now matched by his success in business. Foster went to Mexico City, accompanied by Andy Norman, the BAF promotions officer, to present the bid.

"We have tried three times to get world championships and three times we have been successful," Caine said, reliving the 1983 world cross-country and 1985 women's 15 kilometres.

Now that Britain has a gold medal from the commonwealth, it is to be hoped that the BAF will provide its athletes with a better chance of matching it on the field of play, despite the efforts of Liz

McColgan, who rounded off her wonderful year with victory at Durham last month.

Bud Baldaro, Britain's chief cross-country coach, has been fighting for financial backing to develop a squad capable of taking on the Africans, but without success.

Deon van Zyl, the president of Athletics South Africa, condemned yesterday the comments of Istvan Gyulai, the new IAAF secretary, who, on Thursday, said that the country would not be readmitted until all three athletics bodies there had united instead of just two of them as at present.

"Only the IAAF council is qualified to make that decision and Mr Gyulai has created an impression which is premature," van Zyl said.

Only after the fact-finding commission has visited South Africa and reported back to the IAAF council will the question of our membership be considered.

Van Zyl said that the existing body, the SA Amateur Athletic Board, might still join but, if it did not, "we believe we have unified to the point that should satisfy the IAAF."



McColgan: chief hope